

Peter Explains Belief in Jesus

1 Peter 1:3-9

Tip for Children’s Ministry Directors

If you’re sending this lesson to families, send it as is! If you’re recording a video, either pause for the discussion questions or tell families to pause the video while they share.

Bold text is spoken aloud.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Let’s Praise God!	Worship God along with music videos.	My Hope Is In the Lord https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJePCzTaQo4 You Gave https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRai5-Tnxkc	
Bible Exploration	Faithful People Illustrate what a faith-filled person looks like, and create a story as a group.	Bibles, markers, pencils, music	.
Weaving Faith Into Life	Romans 5:3-4 Play a Hopscotch game to learn the Key Verse and what it means.	Bibles, construction paper, markers, a drink or snack	

► **Bible Point**

Have faith in Jesus.

Key Verse

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (Romans 5:3-4).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will learn how to have a strong faith in Jesus.

Let's Praise God!

Play these music videos and have kids sing and do the motions along with the videos.

My Hope Is In the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJePCzTaQo4>

You Gave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRai5-Tnxkc>

BIBLE

EXPLORATION

Faithful People

What You'll Do

Open Bibles to 1 Peter 1:3-9. Each person will draw a large gingerbread man shape on a sheet of paper, leaving some room around the shape.

Say: Today we're going to show what a faith-filled person looks like based on the good news in our Bible passage from the letter we call 1 Peter. I'll read one verse of our passage and then ask you to draw a picture on your person.

Say: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." Everyone will draw a heart in the person to represent God's mercies in Jesus coming back to life.

Say: "...and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you..." Everyone will draw clouds above the person with a treasure chest to represent heaven.

Say: "...who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." Everyone will draw a shield on the person's arm.

Say: "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials." Everyone will draw muscles on the biceps of the person to represent strength in the face of suffering.

Say: "These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." Everyone will write "FAITH IS COOL!" underneath the person. Older kids or parents can write for younger ones.

Say: "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy..." Everyone will draw a happy face on the person to express joy.

Say: "...for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." Everyone will draw a cross above the person to represent salvation.

Say: The message of our Bible passage today is simple: Have faith in Jesus, who overcame death. Faith is a valuable thing!

Ask:

- What were the symbols that made the most sense to you on your paper person? Why?
- What are some other words you'd use to describe what faith is?
- What does it mean to have faith to see beyond what you can see?
- What gets in the way of having that kind of faith in God?

Say: Your paper person represents those who put their faith in Jesus. We can be hopeful because we trust in Jesus, who died and then came back to life. That's why we can ► **HAVE FAITH IN JESUS**. That's great news! Let's look at how this is good news no matter what happens in our lives.

Peter gave us lots of good reasons to be faithful. We can trust in God through any worries we have. Let's create a story of how bad things can build up to test our faith.

An adult will start the story by saying something such as, "Once upon a time, there were two friends walking along a sidewalk when one of them fell down..." Then everyone takes turns making up a line to the sad story. Really ham it up and use imaginations to the fullest.

After everyone has contributed and the story has developed some, say: **Our story shows how easy it is to worry about things and for fear to take over. But we can give our worries to God.**

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What was it like to imagine troubles in our group story?
- Which troubles in our story sounded like they'd cause the most worry? Why?
- What do you do when you go through troubles and problems?
- What do you think it means to have faith in Jesus in hard times?

Say: No matter what happens to us in our lives, we can have hope when we ► **HAVE FAITH IN JESUS**. Whether they're big problems and worries or small ones, God wants us to believe in Jesus' power to deal with them. Sometimes we might struggle through hard times, but we can have faith in Jesus and know for sure that he'll *always* be with us.

Romans 5:3-4

What You'll Do

Everyone will gather on one side of the room, with snacks set up on the other side of the room. Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus gives us hope. There's a passage in the Bible that tells us where hope comes from and how we can have hope. It's in the book of Romans.**

Open Bibles to Romans 5:3-4, and show kids the passage. **Listen while I read Romans 5:3-4 to you: "Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."**

There are a lot of big words in that passage. Let's talk about what they mean. First, this verse says that we can rejoice in our sufferings. Set out two pieces of paper. Everyone will gather around and draw symbols on the sheets to remind them of sufferings and rejoicing. For example, they might draw frowns to represent sufferings and rainbows to represent rejoicing. Parents, set the papers on the floor to begin a path to the snack.

Ask:

- **What are sufferings?**
- **What does it mean to rejoice?**
- **How can we rejoice in our sufferings?**

Say: **The passage tells us that sufferings help us learn to persevere. Perseverance means we stick with something. When we suffer through something, we can learn to keep working at doing the right thing even when it's hard.** Everyone will decorate the sheet with symbols that will help them remember what perseverance is, such as hands folded in prayer. Set that paper next on the path.

Ask:

- **Tell about a time you kept working at doing the right thing even though it was hard.**

Say: **This verse says that when we persevere, or keep doing the right things, we learn to have character. That means that we learn to be better people.** Everyone will decorate the sheets with symbols that will help them remember what character is, such as a handshake or a hand taking an oath. Set that paper next on the path.

Say: **Next the verse says that when we learn to have character, we'll have hope.**

Ask:

- **What do you think it means to have hope?**

Everyone will decorate the sheet with symbols that will help them remember what hope is, and then parents will set the paper next on the path.

Say: **The Bible tells us that hope never disappoints us because God has poured his love into our hearts. Hoping in God is a sure thing.** Everyone will draw hearts on papers and use those papers to finish the path, leading to the drink or snack.

Say: **We'll pretend our snack at the end of the Hopscotch grid is God's love. Now let's follow the path to help us learn why Jesus gives us hope.**

Take turns marching down the path and saying the sequence of words: “Sufferings lead to perseverance, perseverance leads to character, character leads to hope, and hope is sure because of God’s love.” Continue until everyone has reached the end of the path.

At the end of the path, everyone gets a snack.

Talk With Kids

Discuss:

Ask:

- **How was marching through the words on the path like or unlike getting through real sufferings?**
- **What are ways to have faith even when things look hopeless?**
- **What difference does belief in Jesus make when we’re going through something hard?**

Say: **Our Key Verse and Peter’s letter have one thing in common: They both tell us that whatever hardship or suffering we go through now is worth it when we ► HAVE FAITH IN JESUS. That’s because we have hope in the future and know that today’s troubles are not the final word.**