

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **March 5, 2023** Family Theme | **Called to Holiness**
Study Text | **1 Peter 1:3-25**

Objective: Parents help their children set their hope on blessings to come and live a holy and loving life out of reverence for God.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this first letter to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor around AD 62-63.

Bible Basics: Work with family members to go over the following question and answer this week. **Why did Jesus die on the cross? Answer:** Jesus died on the cross that people may have their sins forgiven and be cleansed (1 Peter 1:18-19). In His death, Jesus took our place under the wrath of God. He was punished for our sins (Isaiah 53:5-6).

Read the Word: 1 Peter 1:3-25

Disciple Your Kids:

Help your children or grandchildren understand that Christ is coming back and that we should live with holiness, reverence, and love while we wait for Him to come.



Key Truth: Believers Are Joyful in Every Circumstance Because of God's Promises (1 Peter 1:3-12)

- Peter began with reasons for believers to praise God. This included God giving believers the opportunity and privilege of being *born again*. This includes hope, an eternal inheritance, and being kept through faith for what awaits (verses 3-5).
- Believers rejoice, even in trials, which prove the genuineness of our faith and glorify God. Our belief in Him gives us great joy in our salvation (verses 6-9).
- This salvation was so amazing that the Old Testament prophets searched seeking to understand it. They understood they were writing for those who would live later and would come to know the full experience of God's salvation (verses 10-12)



Key Truth: Believers Display Holiness, Reverence, and Love While Awaiting Christ's Return (1 Peter 1:13-25)

- Peter gave his readers four commands in these verses: (1) set your hope fully on the grace to come (verse 13), (2) be holy (verse 15), (3) conduct yourselves with reverence for God (verse 17), and (4) love one another (verse 22). It is because of God's truth and what He has done that believers can live hopeful, holy, reverent, and loving lives before God, even when being persecuted. This takes right thinking and self-control (verse 13).
- We are to have reverence for God and be holy like God is holy, not conforming to sinful desires (verses 14-17). We do this because we have been ransomed from sinful ways by the blood of Christ. Through Him we are believers in God who raised Christ from the dead (verses 18-21).
- The gospel calls believers to demonstrate a sincere, sacrificial, and selfless love for others because Christ commanded and demonstrated such a love. Because they had been born again through the Word of God that remains forever, they were to demonstrate their new birth through new attitudes and actions (new life) (verses 22-25).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What attitude should we have when suffering trials or persecution? Explain.
- Why do Christians always have reason for hope and joy?
- How does Christ's resurrection give us confidence that we, too, will rise again?
- **What does it mean that God is holy and why should that make us want to be holy?**
- Why should we have reverence or respect for God?
- How can we show love to the people around us?
- **What is holiness? (Thinking and living the right way according to God's standards)**
- **What are some things the world uses to try to get us to turn away from God's holiness?**

Everyday Extras

In the backyard or on the computer, spend some time listening to birdcalls. You might be able to distinguish some of the sounds different species of birds make and imitate them. (You can at least do an owl and a rooster!) Talk with your family about the reasons birds sing or call or hoot or screech. They are often identifying themselves to other birds as a contact call or sounding an alarm to protect the flock. They might be attempting to attract a mate or designating their territory. Birds recognize when others in their species are calling them and respond. Like birds, we are listening for a call that designates us as different from others. God calls us to holiness — to be different from those who are not believers, to identify that we belong to Him. Responding to this call gives us community with other believers and protection from sin. Let's be listening for God's call to His children!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Jesus told His disciples to share about Him and His love for others. Peter did and many people began to follow Jesus and they loved and shared like Jesus did. The people shared the things they had — food, land, homes, and money. We can follow Jesus and be good sharers too. **I Can Share With Others.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **March 12, 2023** Family Theme | **Pursuing Holiness**
Study Text | **1 Peter 2:1-17**

Objective: Family members learn God's Word, worship and serve God, and live honorably among unbelievers.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this letter to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor around AD 62-63.

Bible Basics: Memorize 1 Peter 1:16 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: 1 Peter 2:1-17

Disciple Your Kids:

Talk with your children about how believers are God's special people who grow through learning God's Word, worship and serve God, and do what is right among unbelievers.



Key Truth: Believers Grow Spiritually Through a Healthy Diet of God's Word (1 Peter 2:1-3)

- Believers are to put sinful behaviors aside (verse 1) and cultivate a strong desire for God's Word like a newborn baby longs for nourishment at feeding time. Believers should want to do this if they have experienced the goodness of God (verses 2-3).



Key Truth: Believers Are God's Holy People Who Worship and Serve Him (1 Peter 2:4-10)

- Peter portrayed Christ as a stone that was rejected by the builders, but chosen by God to be the cornerstone on which the church would be built. Believers, then, are living stones used to build the spiritual house of the Lord. These believers now serve as priests by offering spiritual sacrifices (verses 4-5).
- Believers trust in Christ and rely on Him much like a building relies on the cornerstone for stability and correct alignment. They find honor in Christ while unbelievers stumble over Him and reject Him in disbelief (verses 6-8).
- Believers are God's chosen people and priests who reign with Christ. They are a holy nation and God's special people who proclaim the praises of God. They were sinners, but are now God's people through His mercy (verse 9-10).



Key Truth: Believers Conduct Themselves Honorably Among Unbelievers (1 Peter 2:11-17)

- Believers are to live in a way that reflects they are not at home in this world. They are to abstain from sinful desires and display honorable conduct among unbelievers who could come to Christ because of believers' right conduct (verses 11-12).
- One way to do this is to submit to governing authorities who are sent by God to provide order. This is God's will. We are to live as servants of God, honoring everyone, loving one another, fearing God, and honoring those in authority (verses 13-17).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **Why is reading God's Word so important for every believer?**
- What practical steps can believers take to set aside sin?
- What does it mean that we are God's holy people?
- Give examples of ways we can worship and serve God?
- Why does God want us to submit to governing authorities?
- When should believers not obey governing authorities?
- **What does it mean to pursue holiness? (Actively seeking a life that is different from the world's standards)**
- **Who is our example for how to live a holy life?**

Everyday Extras

Host a family color fight. Wearing old white t-shirts, assign everyone a color of powdered paint. (You can crush sidewalk chalk or make your own with food coloring and corn starch.) Compete to see whose color is most predominant after the battle. Be sure to make before-and-after pictures.

We are all in a battle for holiness. Holiness means that we are different from people who don't believe in God. We act and talk in a different way. We spend our money and use our time in a way that makes us more like God, not like our culture. Our actions are different because our hearts and minds are different. When we had the color fight, we all got dirty and had paint all over us. Everyone had a strategy to pour or throw paint on others without getting as much on himself or herself. In our fight to be holy, our strategy is to stay as close to Jesus as we can! He will help us to be holy.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned a man who couldn't walk asked Peter and John for money. They told him they did not have money to give him, but then Peter told the man to stand. The man was healed and able to walk. Peter shared about God's power and Jesus' life with the man and others around him. **I Can Share With Others** the truths I have learned about Jesus.

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Date | **March 19, 2023** Family Theme | **Tested in Suffering**
Study Text | **1 Peter 4:1-19**

Objective: Family members choose to rejoice and entrust themselves to God's will when suffering because of living for Christ.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this letter to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor around AD 62-63.

Bible Basics: Review Colossians 1:16b-17 this week with family members.

Read the Word: 1 Peter 4:1-19

Disciple Your Kids:

Help your children and grandchildren understand that we may be made fun of or treated badly because we love and serve Jesus. We rejoice when this happens and trust God to take care of it as He sees fit.



Key Truth: Believers View Suffering as Christ Did (1 Peter 4:1-6)

- Believers should have Christ's attitude toward suffering, a willingness to do God's will no matter the cost. They should no longer live for the sinful things that used to dominate them. Rather, they should live to do God's will (verses 1-2).
- When a believer's lifestyle is marked by holiness, the world is surprised or astonished by their different conduct. As a result, the Christ-follower is maligned or slandered. Even so, those who slander us will give account to God (verses 3-5).
- Believers who die after hearing the gospel and being saved will not face judgment for their sins. They have a wonderful future ahead (verse 6).



Key Truth: Believers Love and Serve One Another in the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 4:7-11)

- The return of Christ could come at any time. For that reason, Peter appealed to his readers to be self-controlled and serious minded for the purpose of prayer. They also should love each other in a deep, self-sacrificing way. This kind of love would also offer hospitality without grumbling (verses 7-9).
- Believers are to use the gifts of grace God gives them to serve or minister to others. This is all for God's glory (verses 10-11).



Key Truth: Believers Glorify God in the Way They Handle Suffering (1 Peter 4:12-19)

- Believers are not to be surprised by the trials they experience, but to see trials as a test to reveal the strength of their faith. They should respond to trials with joy because it gives them an opportunity to identify with their Savior and rejoice when He returns. They can expect to face ostracism, discrimination, and ridicule because of their association with Christ (verses 12-14).
- Suffering because of our own wrongdoing does not glorify God, but suffering for Christ's sake is nothing to be ashamed of. It glorifies God (verses 15-16).
- God will purify His people. And if those who are saved have such purifying judgment to bear, the wicked will not be able to stand before God at all. Believers are to continue doing good, regardless of suffering, knowing that their faithful Creator has them in His hands (verses 17-19).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Jesus was willing to suffer to make salvation possible for us. Why would He do this?
- Why do unbelievers sometimes treat believers badly?
- What does it look like for believers to love and serve one another?
- Why is it important for every believer to use the gifts and abilities God has given him or her to serve God and others?
- How do trials test a believer's faith?
- **How can knowing Jesus experienced suffering while on earth help you when you go through hard times?**
- **How can suffering grow our faith?**

Everyday Extras

Make homemade pretzels to talk about suffering as a Christian. Pretzels are not easy to make. They required waiting, boiling, and baking — a lot of suffering! Find a recipe and work on the stages together, making comparisons to suffering as you go. We often must wait (as the dough rises), not certain of what is ahead. We are shaped by circumstances and sometimes we have to “roll” with them. We fold our arms in prayer (think of your arms crossed with hands on your shoulders and your head bowed as you fold the pretzel shapes) and are molded to be like Jesus. We face “hot water” situations, where our faith is put on trial by difficulty. Sometimes there are salty tears, and we suffer the heat as others oppose us when we stand for Christ. But all of this suffering makes a good (and delicious) result! We can thank God for working even through the difficulties we face.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Peter and John were put in jail for sharing about Jesus, but they continued to tell others about Jesus. Later, Peter was put in jail again for sharing about Jesus, but God sent an angel to help him escape. Peter went to where the Christians were praying for him and shared with them what had happened. **I Can Share About Jesus** wherever I am.

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Date | **March 26, 2023** Family Theme | **Return of Christ**
Study Text | **Mark 13:1-27**

Objective: All in your household will be prepared to stand for Christ in difficult times, waiting confidently for His return.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Mark wrote his account of the life of Christ in the mid- to late-AD 50s based on the eyewitness testimony of Peter. The events of this chapter took place in AD 33.

Bible Basics: Review Psalm 51:10 this week with family members.

Read the Word: Mark 13:1-27

Disciple Your Kids: Discuss the signs we will see that will lead up to the time of Christ's return. Help children understand that we may face difficult times, but that God will be with us.



Key Truth: Christ's Return Will Follow a Time of False Teaching, Wars, Natural Disasters, and Persecution of Believers (Mark 13:1-13)

- When asked about the impressive Temple buildings in Jerusalem, Jesus surprisingly foretold the total destruction of the Temple. This was fulfilled 40 years later when the Romans ransacked Jerusalem and demolished the Temple. The disciples asked when this would happen and what signs would lead up to it (verses 1-4).
- Jesus warned His followers to be ready for false teachers and false messiahs. They were not to be alarmed by news of wars and natural disasters. These were only the beginning, like the beginning of birth pains. They would increase. Ridicule and persecution of Christ-followers would increase. The end will not come, however, until the gospel is proclaimed to all nations. When they were brought to trial, the Holy Spirit would give His followers the words to say. They would be hated, but those who endure to the end will be saved (verses 5-13).



Key Truth: Christ's Return Will Follow a Time of Terrible Tribulation (Mark 13:14-27)

- Many scholars believe the events of this section refer to both "near" events (the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70) and a great time of tribulation to take place in the last days. The near events would foreshadow the end time events. According to verse 14, the sign that this was about to happen would be a terrible, idolatrous desecration of the Temple referred to as *the abomination of desolation* (verse 14).
- When this abomination comes, believers should flee, not even taking time to retrieve belongings. This would be a time of distress like none before. The best news in this scenario is that God will cut short the days and set limits on the Tribulation period. And this He will do for the elect, the people of God. Believers should not be fooled by false christs and false prophets who will try to lead them astray (verses 15-23).
- After that time of great tribulation, there will be great disorder in the heavens. The sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers or planets in the heavens will be shaken. These catastrophic events will soon be followed by the return of Christ. This is Jesus' personal, visible, bodily return to earth in His glorified state. When He comes this time, all will see Him coming with the clouds and with great glory. The angels will gather God's people from all over the world (verses 24-27).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What are some events that will lead up to Christ's return?**
- How can believers recognize and resist false teaching?
- Why should believers expect to be persecuted?
- What does persecution look like for Christians around the world?
- How can we prepare ourselves to stand for Christ when difficult times come?
- What are we to do until Jesus returns?

Everyday Extras

Have a keep-your-room challenge. Tell everyone in the family that there will be a prize (a special treat, cash, or an adventure) if their room is clean when a surprise guest arrives sometime this week. Be very specific about the chores that must be done to qualify for the prize. However, no one will know when the guest will come — including Mom and Dad! Now this is the part where you really need a good friend. Ask a friend or neighbor to surprise you this week — any time, without prior notice! That surprise guest is invited to come in and inspect whenever he or she chooses to determine if your family wins the prize!

Just like your family had to be ready for the special guest, we have to be ready for Jesus to come back. He has given us an assignment, and He wants us to be prepared and ready for His return. If we are doing what is right, we will watch for Him joyfully!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned the people first praised Jesus when He entered Jerusalem. By several days later, the people wanted to hurt Him. One of Jesus' disciples told the leaders where Jesus was, and the men arrested Jesus. They took Jesus to a man who was like a judge who then sent Him to another judge. Jesus loved the people in His time, and I know **Jesus Loves Me** too.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **April 2, 2023** Family Theme | **Suffering of Christ**
Study Text | **Mark 14:32-65**

Objective: Family members love and serve Christ because of what He has done for us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Mark wrote his account of the life of Christ in the mid- to late-AD 50s based on the eyewitness testimony of Peter. The events of this chapter took place in AD 33.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **What is the Lord's Supper?** **Answer:** The Lord's Supper is a memorial celebration of Jesus' death for sinners in which believers eat bread and drink juice that represent Jesus' body and blood given for us on the cross.

Read the Word: Mark 14:32-65

Disciple Your Kids: Talk with family members about what Christ went through to provide salvation for us, and how we should respond in love and appreciation for Him.



Key Truth: Christ Was Willing to Suffer to Accomplish the Father's Will (Mark 14:32-42)

- Jesus knew it was God's will for Him to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. He was distressed. He staggered at the thought of bearing the wrath of God on the cross and being separated from perfect communion with the Father for the first time in eternity. Sorrow overwhelmed Him to the point of death and He prayed for a way out, but committed to do God's will no matter what it cost Him (verse 32-36).
- Jesus arose from prayer and returned to Peter, James, and John, only to find that they had fallen asleep (verses 37-38). They wanted to stay awake and pray, but their flesh was weak. Jesus prayed two more times, only to find the disciples asleep when He returned. After the third time He announced the hour had come for Him to be betrayed (verses 39-42).



Key Truth: Christ Suffered When His Friends Betrayed and Abandoned Him (Mark 14:43-52)

- In verse 43, Judas Iscariot came, along with a group of soldiers and officials bearing swords and clubs. Judas went to Christ and betrayed Him with a kiss of greeting. This identified Christ as the one to arrest, and they seized Him (verses 43-46).
- Jesus chided the soldiers and officials for coming under the cover of night with swords and clubs to arrest Him when they could have easily arrested Him in broad daylight when He was teaching in the Temple courts. At this point His disciples fled, abandoning Christ. He experienced what it is like to be betrayed and abandoned (verses 47-52).



Key Truth: Christ Suffered When People Lied About Him and Beat Him (Mark 14:53-65)

- After His arrest, Jesus was taken before the religious leaders who hated Him and wanted to kill Him. His truthful teaching about God and Himself drove them mad with jealous rage. They looked for any evidence, true or not, that would condemn Jesus to death. However, the testimony of the false witnesses chosen to testify against Him did not agree (verses 53-59).
- When the high priest sought to incriminate Jesus with questions, Jesus kept silent. He finally answered when asked if He was the Christ, the Son of God, affirming that He was. This was all the religious leaders needed to condemn Him to death. Jesus was then spit on and beaten (verses 60-65).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- In what ways did Jesus suffer for us?
- **Jesus submitted to God's will even when it meant suffering. When is it difficult for you to submit to God's will?**
- **Why is it difficult to follow the Lord when those around you do not?**
- Why do we have reasons to rejoice even when we suffer for Christ's sake?
- **In what situation could you stand for Christ even when others do not?**

Everyday Extras

Send your children on a scavenger hunt to find symbols of Christ's suffering, such as a branch or vine with thorns, three nails, a whip or belt, something red, an empty water bottle, a bandage, and perhaps other symbols of the pain, betrayal, and abandonment Jesus felt (something broken, something painful, etc.). When they return with the objects, arrange them in the shape of a heart (or a cross or the word *Love*, if that is easier) to remind them that Jesus suffered on our behalf. He took our place to pay for our sins because He loved us so much. Together, sit in darkness for a few minutes to remember Jesus on the cross, and sing a song of praise for His suffering and sacrifice.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned people told lies about Jesus and He was nailed to a cross where He died. Afterward, a man named Joseph buried Jesus' body in a tomb, which was like a cave. A large stone was placed in front of the tomb and soldiers guarded it. **Jesus Loves Me** so much He died for my sins so that I could one day be with Him in Heaven.

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Date | **April 9, 2023** Family Theme | **Resurrection of Christ**
Study Text | **Mark 15:16 – 16:8**

Objective: Family members serve the Lord and look forward to Heaven because Jesus conquered death.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Mark wrote his account of the life of Christ in the mid-to late-AD 50s based on the eyewitness testimony of Peter. The events of these chapters took place in AD 33.

Bible Basics: Memorize John 11:25 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: Mark 15:16 – 16:8

Disciple Your Kids:

Discuss with your children and grandchildren how Christ suffered to make our salvation possible and how His resurrection assures that we will rise again.



Key Truth: Jesus Was Mocked, Beaten, Crucified, and Buried to Make Our Salvation Possible (Mark 15:16-47)

- After His betrayal and arrest in the garden (Mark 14:43-50), Jesus was taken before the religious and political leaders for questioning (14:51 – 15:15). Pilate had Jesus scourged and given over to the Romans. The Romans mocked and beat Jesus and led Him out to be crucified (verses 16-20).
- At Golgotha, the place of crucifixion, Jesus was nailed to a cross with a criminal on each side, and His clothing was divided among the soldiers, another fulfillment of prophecy (Psalm 22:18). He was mocked again and the inscription *The King of the Jews* was nailed to the cross above His head (verses 22-32).
- Darkness covered the land for three hours. Jesus then asked the Father why He had forsaken Him (Psalm 22:1). Jesus had taken our sin and guilt upon Himself causing the Father to turn away. When Jesus cried out and breathed His last, the thick curtain in the Temple separating the Holy Place and Most Holy Place tore from top to bottom, signifying that the barrier of sin that separated us from God had been removed. We can come into God's presence by the blood of Jesus (verses 33-38). Seeing all this, a Roman centurion declared that Jesus surely was the son of God. Some of the women who followed and served Christ were looking on as these events unfolded (verses 39-41).
- When evening came, Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish ruling council and a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked to take down the dead body of Jesus and bury Him. Being assured of Jesus' death, Pilate granted this request and Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in a linen shroud and laid Him in a tomb. A large stone was rolled against the opening (verses 42-46).



Key Truth: Jesus Was Raised From the Dead to Guarantee Our Salvation (Mark 16:1-8)

- Early in the morning after the Sabbath ended, the women came to the tomb intending to anoint Jesus' body for burial. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance. Upon entering the tomb, they were greeted by a young man who announced that Jesus was not there. He had risen! The angelic messenger instructed them to go tell Jesus' disciples what they had found (verses 1-7). They hesitated (verse 8), but then spread the news (Matthew 28:8). The Lord's resurrection proved He was truly God's Son and that death had been conquered for Jesus and for all who believe in Him.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- In what ways did Christ suffer for us?
- How does it make you feel to know that Christ suffered for you?
- How can we worship and serve Christ because He suffered and died for us?
- **Why is Christ's resurrection so important to the Christian faith?**
- How does Christ's resurrection assure that we will rise from the dead?
- **How do you think the women felt once they realized Jesus was alive?**
- **What excuses or reasons were given for the empty tomb?**

Everyday Extras

Jesus is alive! Continue to share the good news of Easter by giving out egg messages. Recycle the plastic eggs and fill them with discount Easter candy, a message or verse about the Resurrection, confetti, and a sprinkle of glitter. Share them with friends, neighbors, and random strangers this week.

Easter lasts all year long because we serve a *risen* Savior. Encourage your family to make lots of small cards with the words, "Jesus is alive," on them. Decorate them with stickers and other art, then hide them everywhere: in jeans pockets, in winter coat sleeves, in sock drawers, in garden tools, with the canned vegetables, in a stack of wash cloths, in backpacks and lunchboxes, in the box of envelopes or trash bags — anywhere you can think of! As you discover them throughout the coming months, the good news of Easter is still true!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned when Jesus' friends came to take care of His body, the tomb was empty. An angel told them Jesus was not there, that He had risen. The women found Jesus' disciples and told them the news. Many people saw Jesus after His resurrection, including His disciples. **Jesus Loves Me** and every person who has ever been born or will ever be born.

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Date | **April 16, 2023** Family Theme | **Courageous Faith**
Study Text | **Esther 3:1 – 4:17**

Objective: Family members have the courage to do what is right even if it may mean suffering.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events written about in Esther took place between 483 BC and 473 BC during the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes I) who reigned in Persia from 485-464 BC. Some of the Jews had been allowed to return to Jerusalem (see Ezra and Nehemiah), but others such as Esther and Mordecai remained in captivity under the Persians who had defeated the Babylonians.

Bible Basics: Memorize Joshua 1:9 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: Esther 3:1 – 4:17

Disciple Your Kids:

Discuss with your family members how we are to do what is right even when we might be made fun of or ridiculed.



Key Truth: God Works His Sovereign Plan No Matter the Opposition (Esther 3:1-15)

- In God's providence, King Ahasuerus of Persia chose to replace the queen. Not knowing she was a Jew, the king chose a young lady named Esther to be his queen (chapters 1 and 2).
- The king also promoted a man named Haman to the second highest office in the land, under the king. Mordecai, a Jew who was raising Esther, refused to bow down to Haman. For this, Haman determined to destroy Mordecai and all the Jews. Casting lots daily, He looked for a favorable time to act against them (3:1-7).
- Without naming the Jews, Haman went to the king and said there was a people whose existence posed problems for the empire. He suggested those people should be destroyed. The king gave Haman the authority to destroy those people. A decree was sent throughout the empire giving people permission to kill the Jews and take their belongings. All Jews were to be exterminated (verses 8-15).



Key Truth: Believers Do What is Right Even When It May Cost Them (Esther 4:1-17)

- When the Jews heard of the decree, they were horror stricken. Mourning, fasting, and weeping overtook them. Mordecai asked Esther to intervene with the king, even though approaching him without being summoned could mean death (verses 1-11).
- Mordecai felt God would intervene, but perceived a purpose behind all that had occurred with Esther. Perhaps Esther's presence in the palace was to intervene in such a way. Esther understood that God had placed her there as queen for a reason. She agreed to intervene, after three days of fasting, uttering famous words of great courage, *If I perish, I perish* (4:12-17).
- The remaining chapters of Esther reveal that she did risk going before the king without being summoned. God gave her favor with the king and the king heard and granted her requests. Haman had to honor Mordecai and was hanged on the very gallows he had built to hang Mordecai on. The Jews were allowed to defend themselves and kill those who would seek to harm them.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does it mean to have courage?
- When does it take courage to follow Christ?
- Why is God able to accomplish His purposes no matter the opposition?
- What purpose did God have for the Jewish people?
- How might it cost us to obey and follow Christ?
- **What are some ways Esther demonstrated courageous faith?**
- **What are some situations where you might need to show courageous faith?**

Everyday Extras

Go to see a play together or watch one on television. (*Peter Pan* or a puppet show would be a terrific example.) Talk with your family about the way the people backstage work “behind the scenes” to tell the story — changing the setting, helping the characters to fly, providing props and wardrobe, etc. Others work with lighting and sound so that everyone can enjoy the play. Esther’s true story reminds us of the way God is at work “behind the scenes.” We can’t always see what He is doing, and we don’t always understand why He does what He does, but God knows all about the future. He is at work to make the big story of history turn out just right. We can trust Him!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned about a young Jewish girl named Esther who loved God very much. God allowed Esther to be chosen as the king’s new queen. God had a special job for Esther, but she didn’t know it. Your child learned his or her job is to learn and grow. God has special jobs for everyone, and **God Has a Job for Me.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **April 23, 2023** Family Theme | **Standing for What Is Right**
Study Text | **Daniel 1:1-21**

Objective: Family members choose to follow God's ways rather than the ways of the ungodly culture around us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events in the book of Daniel took place during the time when God's people had been taken into captivity by the Babylonians and later the Medo-Persians from 605 BC to 536 BC.

Bible Basics: Memorize the names and order of books 32-35 of the Old Testament (Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk) along with family members.

Read the Word: Daniel 1:1-21

Disciple Your Kids:

Help your children and grandchildren understand that we will sometimes have to choose between what pleases God and what the culture wants us to do. Glorify God by doing what pleases Him.



Key Truth: The World Wants to Squeeze Believers Into Its Mold (Daniel 1:1-7)

- True to God's warnings in Scriptures such as Leviticus 26:33-39, Deuteronomy 4:27, and Deuteronomy 28:64, God allowed the ungodly Babylonians to defeat His chosen people when they turned away from Him into sin and idolatry (2 Kings 24:1-4). Nebuchadnezzar took some of the items the Jews had dedicated for the worship of the true God and placed them in the temple of his false god (verses 1-2).
- Babylon's policy was to take the best and brightest from the conquered territories and immerse them into Babylonian language, culture, and training. Then, these young people served in the Babylonian administrative service. Such was the case with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were to be given Babylonian names, educated in the Babylonian culture, and then examined by the king (verses 3-7).



Key Truth: Believers Do What Pleases God Instead of What the Culture Dictates (Daniel 1:8-16)

- There was something in the menu that caused Daniel to believe it would not please God for him to eat it. So, he asked the official in charge of their training to allow them to eat something different. God granted Daniel and his friends favor with the official. They would eat differently for ten days, and then see how they looked. God honored Daniel and after the ten days, they looked better than those who ate the king's food. We should be respectful to those in authority by making appeals instead of demands, as Daniel did, and offer reasonable solutions (verses 8-16).



Key Truth: God Uses Believers for His Glory When They Choose to Honor Him (Daniel 1:17-21)

- God worked in the four young Israelites in a way that went beyond their natural abilities. They had honored God, and God in return honored them. The king himself examined each one at the end of their training. He found them far better equipped than all the others, and Daniel understood dreams and visions (verses 17-21).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Why does the lost world want believers to be like them?
- How can believers become more like Christ and less like the world?
- **When is it difficult to do what pleases God instead of what the culture wants?**
- What could I do this week to become more like Christ and less like the world?
- In what way could I please and honor God this week instead doing what the culture dictates?
- **How did Daniel and his friends stand for what was right?**
- **When have you had to stand for what is right? When might you need to?**

Everyday Extras

Give your younger children a paper plate, scissors, glue, and a stack of old magazines. Ask them to cut out pictures of the fruits and vegetables that Daniel and his friends ate instead of eating the Babylonian feasts. They can glue on their plates the ones that they would eat for dinner. Remind your children that Daniel and his friends wanted to please God with their food choices. They asked respectfully to be allowed to continue eating like Jewish people were supposed to eat, even though they were far away from home. Even though they were young, they wanted to obey God.

Making good choices begins ahead of time. Ask your children to help you plan daily menus, including one meatless meal this week. Decide now on some choices about their food this week, including eating fruits and vegetables!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned that a bad man named Haman tricked the king into signing a law to kill the Jewish people. God gave Esther the job of saving her people. It wasn't easy, but she was able to get the king to make a new law which let the Jewish people fight against those who tried to kill them. God had a job for Esther and **God Has a Job for Me.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **April 30, 2023** Family Theme | **Standing Against Idolatry**
Study Text | **Daniel 3:1-30**

Objective: Family members choose to honor God even when it may cost us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events in the book of Daniel took place during the time when God's people had been taken into captivity by the Babylonians and later the Medo-Persians from 605 BC to 536 BC.

Bible Basics: Memorize Luke 4:8b this week along with family members.

Read the Word: Daniel 3:1-30

Disciple Your Kids:

Discuss with family members how choosing to follow God may cause us to face ridicule and bad treatment by some who are lost.



Key Truth: Following the One True God May Put Us in the Minority (Daniel 3:1-12)

- King Nebuchadnezzar commanded the construction of an enormous image all of gold — 90 feet tall. He gathered officials from all the provinces, nations, and languages over which he ruled and instructed them to bow before the golden idol when they heard the sound of music being played. Those who did not bow would be thrown into the fiery furnace. Almost everyone bowed before the idol (verses 1-7).
- Jealous officials reported Daniel's companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they stayed true to God instead of bowing to the idol. They did what was right, even though they were alone in their stand for God (verses 8-12).



Key Truth: Following the One True God May Put Us at Risk (Daniel 3:13-23)

- Furious that they had not bowed before his idolatrous image, Nebuchadnezzar gave the order to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, before him. He gave them another chance to bow. Their response enraged him. They said their God could deliver them, but they would not bow in idolatry, even if God did not deliver them (verses 13-18).
- The king ordered the furnace heated to the maximum extent, and ordered that the three Israelites be thrown in. The men who threw them in died in the heat and flames. The Israelites honored God even when it put them at risk (verses 19-23).



Key Truth: Choosing to Be True to God Is a Witness to Those Around Us (Daniel 3:24-30)

- The king saw four figures moving around in the fire instead of three, and one had a god-like appearance. Amazed, he called for the three Israelites to come out of the furnace. They were examined and found to be completely unharmed. God protected His servants in a clearly miraculous way (verses 24-27).
- Nebuchadnezzar recognized that the God of the Hebrews was the Most High God, even if he believed there were other gods. He decreed that no one should speak against this God who alone is able to rescue His people in such a way. He then promoted the three Israelites (verses 28-30).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What is idolatry?**
- **Give some examples of idols in our culture.**
- What are some costs or problems believers may face because they choose to follow and obey the Lord instead of doing what our culture says to do?
- How do our choices serve as a witness to those around us?
- In what way do you need to do what is right this week even though it may cost you?
- **How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand against idolatry?**
- **How did God protect the three men?**
- **What are some situations where you might have to stand against idolatry?**

Everyday Extras

Make a shadow box with your children by cutting a window in a pasteboard box and covering it with parchment paper. When a small lamp or flashlight shines from inside the back of the box, you can see what is happening in the window. This is a perfect set-up for re-enacting the account of the fiery furnace. Cut and color flames (or crumple colored tissue paper) to put near the inside of the window. Cut out the shapes of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and tape them to popsicle sticks. Also cut out one more man's shape to represent the Son of God; tape it to a popsicle stick too. Ask your children to retell the story with their puppets, adding the fourth figure in the furnace. Remind them that Jesus is with us, too, even when we don't see Him, even in the most difficult times.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Daniel and his three friends made choices that showed they only lived for the one, true God. They refused to eat the king's food that was also given to false gods, and God made them stronger and healthier. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow to the king's statue even if it meant they would be punished. **I Can Live for God** just like they did.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 7, 2023** Family Theme | **Standing Against Opposition**
Study Text | **Daniel 6:1-28**

Objective: Family members walk with and serve God even when it is not popular in the culture.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events in the book of Daniel took place during the time when God's people had been taken into captivity by the Babylonians and later the Medo-Persians from 605 BC to 536 BC. The events in this lesson occurred during the later period of time, making Daniel at least 80 years old.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **What is prayer?**
Answer: Prayer is speaking to God.

Read the Word: Daniel 6:1-28

Disciple Your Kids:

Discuss with family members how we may face opposition, ridicule, and persecution when we believe and obey God. We can glorify God by remaining faithful to Him.



Key Truth: Believers May Face Opposition Because of Their Faith and Obedience to God (Daniel 6:1-15)

- Persia's new ruler Darius so admired Daniel's performance that he promoted Daniel to oversee the whole realm. The other administrators were displeased that Daniel was given a position above theirs. Finding nothing in his work records or character to criticize, they realized they had to try to destroy him through his religion. Knowing he prayed three times daily, they presented a proposal to Darius. No one should pray to any other gods for the next 30 days. Darius agreed (verses 1-9).
- Daniel continued with the routine of prayer he had followed for years. The conspirators found Daniel breaking the decree, as they had hoped. They wasted no time telling the king. Daniel had proven himself to be a valuable official, so Darius tried to find a way to deliver Daniel from the sentence. In the end, the king had to give the order, and Daniel was thrown into the den of lions (verses 10-15).



Key Truth: Believers Bring Glory to God When They Remain Faithful to Him (Daniel 6:16-28)

- The king came back to the lion's den at daybreak after hardly sleeping at all. His approach, his anguish, and his cry indicate at least a glimmer of hope that Daniel's God would have come through. He rejoiced when Daniel gave him the good news of God's protection and came out without a scratch on him (verses 16-23).
- Darius then gave the order for Daniel's accusers to be thrown into the lion's den along with their families. Darius rejoiced at what God had done and acknowledged what generations of Babylonians had denied: God is the living God. He rules a kingdom that does not end. He works mighty deeds in our world of flesh and blood, as seen with Daniel (verses 24-28). Do the results of this event mean that God will always deliver His people without any harm coming to them? No, it does not. God's people must trust Him to do what He wills, whether that means complete deliverance from harm, partial deliverance from harm, or even deliverance through death.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What kinds of opposition do believers sometimes face from unbelievers?**
- Why should believers expect opposition when they remain faithful to God?
- Why is God worthy of our trust and obedience in times of opposition?
- **In what ways can believers bring glory to God by being faithful to Him?**
- **In what area could you remain faithful to God this week even when others do not?**
- **How did Daniel's actions influence the King's perception of not only Daniel, but also God?**

Everyday Extras

As a family, pray like Daniel did this week. Practice going to a window at morning, noon, and night to pray together. Are there some good results of this habit or discipline?

Turn the tables on the lions! Spread peanut butter on a round cracker, attach carrot curls for the lion's mane, an inverted pretzel for his muzzle, and mini chocolate chips for his eyes. Though Daniel was thrown in with the real, hungry lions, God sealed their mouths and kept them from hurting Daniel. After you pray to thank God for your food, gobble up the lions.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace when they would not bow to the king's statue. The king saw that God sent an angel to the men and He protected them from being hurt. The king had the men come out, and he knew the God they served was real and true. **I Can Live for God** by always standing up for Him.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 14, 2023** Family Theme | **Principles of Prayer**
Study Text | **Matthew 7:7-11; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 21:22; John 14:13-14;
2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 John 3:21-22**

Objective: Family members stay in constant communication with God by following biblical guidelines for prayer.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The principles of prayer found in these passages of Scripture apply throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Bible Basics: Memorize 1 John 5:14 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: Matthew 7:7-11; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 21:22; John 14:13-14;
2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 John 3:21-22

Disciple Your Kids:

Talk with your children and grandchildren about the privilege we have to pray to our Heavenly Father and talk with them about the principles that help us pray effectively.



Key Truth: God Invites Us to Pray and Promises to Answer (Matthew 7:7-11)

- Jesus explained that our sovereign, all-knowing, all-powerful God actually *invites* us to bring our needs to Him in prayer. He is a good and loving Father, eager to hear and respond to our needs. The Greek text reflects persistent, continuous action: *Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking* (verses 7-11). This is not a blank check for whatever we desire. James made it clear that God does not promise to answer prayer motivated by fleshly or selfish desires (James 4:3). We are to remain in a spirit of prayer, ready to pray at all times (1 Thessalonians 5:17).



Key Truth: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray (Romans 8:26-27)

- We don't always know the will or purposes of God. We are often unable to put the burden of our hearts into words. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit who dwells within us takes up our cause, interceding for us in ways beyond our own wisdom or abilities. Paul spoke of *groanings* too deep for words. The Spirit helps us as we pray, conveying our requests to the throne according to God's will. We are to pray in accordance with the Spirit's leading, trusting in His intercession for us (verses 26-27).



Key Truth: The Bible Gives Principles for Effective Prayer (Matthew 21:22; John 14:13-14; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 John 3:21-22)

- The Bible gives us principles to help us pray effectively. Those principles include *Praying in Faith*. This means believing God hears us and will answer our prayers according to His will (Matthew 21:22).
- We are to *Pray in Jesus' Name*. This means praying according to Christ's merits and what He taught and stands for. We pray in keeping with Christ's character and desires, seeking to bring Him glory (John 14:13-14).
- We *Pray in submission to God's will and purpose*. We make our requests while being willing to submit to whatever God wants (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
- We *Live in obedience to Christ's commandments*. Obedience is a key factor in having our prayers answered. We cannot live in rebellion and expect God to respond favorably to our requests (1 John 3:21-22). As we follow these principles, we can pray with confidence that God hears us and will answer.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What does it mean to pray?**
- **How does the Holy Spirit help us pray?**
- Does God promise to give us anything we ask for in prayer? Explain.
- What are some of the principles the Bible gives us about prayer?
- What are some reasons God might say no to our prayers?
- **What are some things the Lord's Prayer teaches us about how to pray?**
- **Why is prayer important?**

Everyday Extras

Your children do not have to sit still and fold their hands every time they pray. Young children might concentrate better when activities accompany prayer time. Here are a few ideas that may work for your family: Take a prayer walk, especially if you are praying for your neighborhood, school, or church. Make a prayer bucket or jar where you can add prayer requests (drawn or written) and select one to pray for each day. Follow a prayer model, perhaps the five-finger prayers that focus on categories of people to pray for, the ACTS model (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication), the Wow-Sorry-Please-Thanks model, or many others. Try different positions in prayer or different activities as you pray (standing, kneeling, bowing, building). Toss the “prayer stick” to the next person in your family to continue a prayer. Pray with photos or pictures as reminders of the prayer requests. Write out prayers or keep a prayer diary.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God blessed Daniel for his faithfulness. The king's helpers became jealous of Daniel, and they tricked the king into making a law that people could only pray to him. Daniel continued to pray to God even though he knew the punishment was that he would be thrown into a lions' den. I am learning **God Helps His Children**, including Daniel and me.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 21, 2023** Family Theme | **Growing in Grace**
Study Text | **2 Peter 1:1-21**

Objective: Family members will add godly qualities using God's inspired Word as our blueprint for growth.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this second letter to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor sometime between AD 64-67. He probably wrote it from Rome not long before he was martyred.

Bible Basics: Memorize 2 Peter 3:18 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: 2 Peter 1:1-21

Disciple Your Kids:

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how God has given us His Word, the Holy Spirit, and other believers so that we have everything we need to live for Him.



Key Truth: God Gives Believers Everything They Need for Godly Living (2 Peter 1:1-15)

- Second Peter opens with a typical greeting from Peter to the believers in Asia Minor (verses 1-2). Peter assured the believers that God grants His followers divine power for all that is needed for life and godliness. With this power, believers are fully equipped to live a life that is pleasing to God, to stand against obstacles, and to persevere under trials. Believers also have the promises of God on which they can rely. By their union with Christ, His divine nature now works in them. The believer has also been set free from the corruption that exists in the world because of sinful desires (verses 3-4).
- Peter then urged his readers to grow spiritually by adding seven qualities of Christian character to one's faith, each supplementing the previous one (virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love). As long as believers are growing in these virtues, they will be effective and fruitful in their knowledge of Christ and walk with Him. They will never fall if they practice these qualities (verses 5-11). Peter promised that while he lived he would keep reminding the believers of these truths so they would always remember them (verses 12-15).



Key Truth: Christ's Example and God's Inspired Word Are the Basis for Spiritual Growth (2 Peter 1:16-21)

- False teachers had taught myths in an effort to lead these believers astray. Peter, on the other hand, taught them the true faith that is based on historical facts. He was an eyewitness of the events and truths he had been teaching them about Christ, including the glory of His transfiguration and the voice of God affirming Jesus as His Son (verses 16-18).
- Peter then spoke of having the written prophetic word. He encouraged the readers to pay attention to it until the Lord returns. The Word of God would aid them in knowing the truth and nurturing their spiritual development. He considered the Scriptures a sure source of inspired truth given by God through His prophets. He encouraged his readers to continually give close attention to the Scriptures and to put them into practice.
- The prophets wrote as they were inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. True prophecy never comes through human ability or knowledge, but only through divine guidance of the Holy Spirit (verses 19-21).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What has God given us to help us grow in our faith and live for Him?**
- What promises has God given us that strengthen our faith?
- How do believers add godly qualities to our faith?
- Why is it important that the apostles were eyewitnesses to the words and works of Jesus?
- What role did the Holy Spirit play in giving us God's Word?
- **What is grace?**
- **How did Peter experience God's grace?**
- **How have you experienced God's grace?**

Everyday Extras

We are familiar with growth charts, where we measure a child's height and weight at intervals to see how they have grown. Challenge your children to grow spiritually too. You might set up a "growth chart" with measurements such as memorizing a Scripture verse, reading the Bible daily, praying regularly, doing a kind deed for others, talking with the family about what they learned in the Bible, or other challenges that fit your child's age and needs. You can find a free, at-home "Measure What Matters" chart at D6Family.com/d6curriculum/teacher/.

To help your family grow in their knowledge of Jesus, find a great Bible storybook and read a story daily at bedtime. All of you will learn from it!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned King Darius was upset that Daniel had to be thrown into the lions' den. He hoped the God Daniel prayed to would save him from the lions. The next morning when the king went to the lions' den, he learned Daniel's God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths and Daniel was safe. I am so glad **God Helps His Children** and He saved Daniel.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 28, 2023** Family Theme | **Living in Hope**
Study Text | **2 Peter 3:1-18**

Objective: Family members practice holiness and godliness in daily living, knowing the return of Christ is coming.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this second letter to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor sometime between AD 64-67. He probably wrote it from Rome not long before he was martyred.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer with family members. **Will Jesus come to earth again? Answer:** Yes. At a time that God the Father has planned, Jesus will gloriously return to earth (Hebrews 9:28). He will then take all believers to Heaven and condemn all unbelievers to Hell (Matthew 25:31-46).

Read the Word: 2 Peter 3:1-18

Disciple Your Kids:

Talk with your children and grandchildren about the hope we can have and the way we should live because Jesus is coming again.



Key Truth: Christ Will Return as Promised (2 Peter 3:1-10)

- Peter reminded his readers of important truths so their thinking would remain pure. He called them to remember the words of the Old Testament prophets and the teachings of Jesus passed on to them by the apostles, especially the teachings regarding the return of Christ. This would correct false teaching, especially the scoffer's claim that Jesus would not come again. They argued that things had been the same since Creation and, therefore, Jesus was not coming again (verses 1-6).
- Regardless of what the false teachers said, God's Word could be trusted. What seemed like delay to the false teachers was actually God's patient desire for people to come to repentance. Christ is coming again! His return, along with God's judgment, will be sudden and without warning like the activity of a thief. The heavens will pass away with a loud noise and the elements will be destroyed by fire. Nothing will be hidden from God (verses 7-10).



Key Truth: Believers Grow in Faith and Godliness While Watching for Christ's Return (2 Peter 3:11-18)

- Peter taught that we should live holy and godly lives with the return of Christ in view. Believers need not dread this day, but should be eagerly waiting for it to come. When Jesus returns, it will be catastrophic for those who are unsaved. But those who are saved wait for God to establish the new heavens and new earth. Only righteousness will dwell there (verses 11-13).
- Peter instructed believers to work hard to be spotless, blameless, and at peace, ready to meet the Lord. To be *blameless* is to be without cause for fault-finding. Believers were to view the waiting as an opportunity for more people to come to Christ for salvation. Paul had given the same scriptural instructions, and the false teachers had distorted his teaching too. Peter encouraged his readers to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord while waiting for the promised return of Christ (verses 14-18).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- How will Christ's second coming be different from His first coming?
- **How does the promise of Christ's return give us hope?**
- What do believers have to look forward to at Christ's second coming?
- **How should knowing Christ will return affect the way believers live?**
- **How do we grow in our knowledge of Christ and in godly living?**

Everyday Extras

Hoping and wishing are not the same. Have a coin flipping contest to see who correctly guesses about heads and tails. You might say you *hope* it will land on heads, but you know there's an equal chance that it will land on tails. That's the "wishing" kind of hope — like hoping your team wins the game or hoping you will have chocolate cake for dessert. But the hope in the Bible is a certain expectation. It's more like gravity. When you flip the coin up in the air, you can certainly expect that it will come down again. Your hope is sure because you understand how gravity works. Our hope in God means we can count on Him to do what He has promised.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned **Jesus Teaches Me to Pray**. Prayer is talking to God, and it is very important for us to talk to Him. Jesus prayed to His Father and one of His prayers is known as the Lord's Prayer. We can learn from this prayer how to pray when we talk to God. Our prayers are powerful because we are praying to the one, true God who is all powerful.