

Read the Word: 1 Peter 4:1–19

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how we should set aside all sin and do God's will.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



Key Truth: Believers Joyfully Trust God as They Suffer Because of Doing God's Will (1 Peter 4:1–6)

APPLY: With the Lord's help, set aside all sin and live a holy lifestyle. Believers are no longer slaves to sin.

- What is the difference between struggling with sin and being enslaved to sin?
- Peter reminded us that believers are no longer slaves to sin. In what practical ways should "freedom from sin" show up in our thoughts, words, and habits this week?

APPLY: Joyfully trust God when your holy lifestyle causes the lost to revile and speak evil of you.

- Why does godly living sometimes provoke hostility or suspicion from unbelievers? How can believers respond in a Christlike way when this happens?
- When you are misunderstood or mocked for your faith, what would a Christlike response look like in the moment? What tempts you most in those moments—anger, silence, compromise, or shame?



Key Truth: Believers Love and Serve Each Other Knowing Christ Will Return (1 Peter 4:7–11)

APPLY: Be a self-controlled and serious minded person of prayer.

- What usually moves prayer to the bottom of our priorities? How can we guard against that?

APPLY: Show one another love and hospitality.

- Where in your life right now would "earnest love" require you to stretch beyond comfort?

APPLY: Bring glory to God by using your God-given gifts to serve.

- It's not always convenient to serve others. How can we make sure a lack of convenience isn't keeping us from doing what God wants us to do?
- We live in an era where people tout their accomplishments and video themselves doing good deeds so they can post it online. How can we serve in a way that draws attention to Christ rather than to ourselves?



Key Truth: Followers of Christ Should Not Be Surprised to Experience Trials and Persecution (1 Peter 4:12–19)

APPLY: Rejoice and do good when trials come, considering them a test of faith and committing yourself to God's care.

- *What is usually our first instinct when trials come—trust, fear, discouragement, anger, withdrawal?*
- *How can we tell whether a hardship is refining us or embittering us?*
- *So many people today turn to unhealthy vices to deal with hard times. What does continuing to do good in suffering communicate to a watching world?*
- *How does remembering that God is our Creator strengthen our trust during hardship?*

Build a foundation: Discussion questions for elementary age students.

- How does knowing Jesus also experienced suffering and persecution help when you are going through the same things?
- How can you be encouraged to joyfully trust God's plan when going through difficult times?
- How can God use difficult times to grow your faith in Him?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Hebrews 11:6.**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

Hope is a confident expectation in the promises of God.

Everyday Extras:

Talk to family members about the importance of keeping the right perspective when going through difficult times. Ask family members if they have ever heard the phrase “first world problems” and talk about what it means and when people use it. Often the things we complain about or view as hardships are nothing compared to what others face. The Bible teaches every single person will face hardships. As believers, we can joyfully trust Jesus is always walking with us and He will help us through them.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned the Bible is God's Word. It is the only book given to us from God and it is His letter to us. God chose certain men to write the things He wanted us to know. One of those men was Paul. In one of Paul's letters, he told Timothy that all Scripture—the words and verses in the Bible—is given to us from God.

We know God's Word Is True.