

KIDTOWN GUIDE

1st-5th Grades

DATE: 1/3/21

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1-2

LESSON: Faithful in Hard Times



INTRO

Parents say to your kid(s) - It's the first Sunday of a new year! It's always so exciting to start off a new year because so many fun and exciting things happen! It's especially exciting after a year like 2020 that was pretty hard during some parts. Today we are going to talk a little bit about how we keep following Jesus while things are hard.

Balancing Act - Kids love to learn in concrete ways. This activity is a simple object lesson to help your kids interact with the Bible story they're about to learn.

Supplies: 1 empty plastic cup

Have kids balance the cup on the palm of their hand. Ask them to walk across the room while balancing the cup. Then tell them to do it again, but this time they have to hop on one foot. Continue to add more difficult movements and obstacles in their path until they can't do it anymore!

Say - Today we're going to hear Peter teach us how to keep doing what God has told us to do even as it gets harder and harder.



LESSON - FAITHFUL IN HARD TIMES

Watch the Gospel Project Bible video: [Faithful in Hard Times](#)

Story Point #1: (Kids repeat!)

Peter wrote to encourage the early church. (Kids repeat!)

In the early church community, many followers of Jesus were treated badly. Some were disliked. Others lost their jobs. Some were even forced out of their homes! When the disciples told people they were sinners but there is great hope in Jesus... many people did not like what they were saying and disagreed. In light of all of this, Peter wrote a letter to encourage early Christians to be faithful even in hard times.

Story Point #2: (Kids repeat!)

Peter told them to rejoice in God's promises. (Kids repeat!)

Peter reminded them of the hope Christians receive from God in Jesus. We have hope because we are children of God and we have blessings waiting in heaven for us

no matter what happens here on earth! Because of Jesus' sacrifice to pay for our sins, nothing can take away our future hope. God is honored when we trust in Him and remember His promises during hard times.

Story Point #3: (Kids repeat!)

Peter also reminded them to obey Jesus. (Kids repeat!)

Peter also reminded them to keep the commands Jesus gave them by living a holy life. Sometimes when we are in pain, it's harder to obey Jesus. Sometimes we feel like we should be able to just do what we want because our lives are hard! But Peter reminds these Christians that Jesus died for them when they did not deserve it. And in light of His sacrifice they are called to show God honor him by following His commands even when times are difficult. When Christians obey God in hard times, it shows others that their hope is in God and in a future home with Him.

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat!)

We can rejoice in God's promises because of Jesus! (kids repeat)

Peter's call to put our hope in God's promises and obey God even when it's hard... are... HARD. These are not easy things for us to do. But we have great hope and great help in Jesus. Jesus went before us and perfectly hoped in God's promises. Even when everything in His life was incredibly hard. Even when people disliked Him and eventually murdered Him on the cross. Jesus kept hoping and trusting in God's goodness. He kept obeying God even as it got harder and harder. Even as He sacrificed more and more.

Because Jesus always trusted God's promises and obeyed God perfectly, we have hope even when we are struggling. Jesus can help us. Jesus can teach us how to trust God. Jesus can teach us how to obey even when it's hard. And even if we fail, Jesus gives us His perfect performance as a GIFT. That's the great news of the gospel.



RESPONSE

Sing: [Life and Godliness](#) (Key Passage Song)
[Good Good Father](#)

Pray: Dear Lord, help us to remain faithful and hopeful during the tough times. Help us to remember that Jesus died for us and because of that, he redeemed us to You God. Our blessings will come to us in heaven and not in this life. Let us live to honor You God and try to be as holy as Jesus was on earth. We need you and we love you, Amen.

Discuss:

- What stood out to you from this story? *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*
- Peter talks about how the Holy Spirit helps us in hard times. What are other ways God's Spirit help Christians? *The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.*
- What reason does Peter give us to be faithful in hard times in 1 Peter 2:12?
 - *It honors God.*
- Why does Peter say Jesus bore our sins in 1 Peter 2:24?
 - *So that we could live for righteousness; and be redeemed to God*
- What is our inheritance from God? *Tell your kids what an inheritance is, and talk about the blessings of being adopted into His family. In Christ, we receive eternal life with God, joy, peace, wisdom, mercy and grace.*
- Why does God allow us to face hard times? *Discuss the potential benefits in hard times - growing in patience, learning to trust God, and showing His love to the world by responding graciously to those who are cruel to us. God can turn all things to good, even when we don't see the good He is working.*
- Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?

- *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at hdisbrow@midtowncolumbia.com*



BONUS ACTIVITIES

Coloring Sheet - [Printable Coloring Sheet](#) of the believers

Parent Share - Which of God's promises do you think of when times are hard?

Shoe Shake Up - Sit in a circle and have everyone throw one shoe in the middle. Then, everyone grabs a shoe that isn't theirs. Pick a person to start the game by returning the shoe to its owner and encourage them. The person who got their shoe back goes next until everyone has gotten their shoe back and some encouragement!