

Following Jesus Through Godly Living

2 Peter 1:5-9



New Testament 4
Part 2: Lessons from the Apostle Peter

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Peter 1:5-9; 1 Peter 1-5; Exodus 23:2

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: “[I]t is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:16).

OLDER CHILDREN: “[Y]ou also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15b-16).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes What You See”](#)
- [“We Can Be a Follower of Jesus”](#)
- [“God’s Little Children Love Living Right”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP’s Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [N.T. Disciples & Peter](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Cards with key words/points from lesson
- Draw a tree on the chalkboard or posterboard. As you talk about the “Christian virtues” (what we will do to live godly lives), attach shiny apples (with things we will do to live godly lives written on them) to the tree. Label “dead” leaves or “rotten” apples with things we will not do, and put them under the tree.
- Make small posters: (1) Even if “everyone else” is doing something, if it is not what God wants me to do, it is wrong. (2) Being like “everyone else” = ungodly living =

- trouble/punishment. (3) Being like Jesus = godly living = righteousness = being different
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Jesus wants me to try to be more like Him every day, no matter what other people choose to do.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

We have been learning about Peter and the great things he did for Jesus. Peter isn't still living today, but he wrote letters that tell us how we can live better so we can see Jesus one day. We can read his letters in the Bible.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review some of the things about Peter from Lessons 7-10 of this quarter.

Even though Peter had a “rough start” in his following of Jesus, he became a great leader in the first-century Church. He did many great things for Jesus before he died. We, too, can learn from Peter through the letters he wrote. In those letters, he told us ways to live better so that we can be with Jesus one day.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:



NOTES: First Peter was written to Christians scattered by persecution in the provinces of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). Second Peter seems to have been written to a more specific group of people, possibly some of the same people to whom the first letter was directed in the same area of the world. From the context, scholars believe that his readers were either of Gentile, or a combination of Jew and Gentile, backgrounds.

1. Peter traveled to many different places, preaching the Gospel. As we have studied, he was sometimes mistreated because of his faith in Jesus. No matter what happened to him, he was determined to live for Jesus. Peter gave up his life as a fisherman to follow Jesus, and he gradually changed into a great man of strong character and great faith.
2. Peter learned how to be like Jesus while he lived and worked with Him. Peter saw how Jesus treated other people in many different situations, and he listened to the many lessons Jesus taught. Peter encouraged other Christians to grow in their faith and to try to be like Jesus. We can read his words of encouragement to Christians in two letters he wrote by inspiration, which we call First Peter and Second Peter. He encouraged Christians to remain **faithful**, to be **godly**, and to be **righteous**, even when it was very hard. Today we can't walk and talk with Jesus like Peter and other people did, but we can read Peter's letters—and the rest of the Bible—to learn how to be the kind of people that God wants us to be.



Faithful: someone who continues to obey God no matter what happens to him because he trusts God completely; loyal to Christ/God

Godly: someone who acts like, and talks like, he is devoted to (set apart for) God (i.e., holy)

Righteous: someone who tries hard to obey God, to do right; to have the kind of attitudes and actions that are pleasing to God.

All of these words are very closely related, practically synonymous.
Someone claiming to be a Christian cannot be one without the other.

3. In his second letter (2 Peter 1:5-9), Peter listed several things that must be a part of our lives if we want to be like Jesus. He also said that if we have these things, we “will never stumble” (i.e., let Satan trip us up). Peter instructed Christians to earnestly/diligently develop these characteristics, adding one to the other. [Go into as much detail as is appropriate for your class. Encourage discussion. With YOUNGER CHILDREN, you may want to use half of these characteristics Sunday and half on Wednesday night, using age appropriate language.]
- Faith: strong belief and trust in God that results in obedience (James 2:14-26; Hebrews 11:1,6; Romans 1:5; 16:26), and a lack of worry due to our trust that God will care for us (Matthew 6:25-33; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7)
 - Virtue [“moral excellence” (NASB)]: strong moral character; determination/desire to do what is right, to not lie, cheat, steal, etc.
 - Knowledge: knowing what is right in God’s sight; **Wanting** to do right is not enough. We have to **know** what God’s will is through studying his Word (Romans 10:1-3).
 - Self-control: controlling your emotions and physical desires, instead of letting them control what you do and think. Wanting to be a good person (virtuous) and knowing how to behave in order to be a good person (knowledge) must be followed with developing the ability to control our passions, desires, and behaviors. We must control ourselves from using bad language or calling people names (Ephesians 4:29); going to places where Jesus wouldn’t go (e.g., a bad movie or party where there will be dancing, alcohol, drugs) or doing things that you know Jesus wouldn’t do (e.g., listen to music with bad words, watch TV shows with bad language and ungodly behavior, etc.) (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
 - Perseverance: As we learn to control our desires in our goal of being virtuous, we will fail at times (1 John 1:8). However, we must keep trying again and again, even when we do fail. We must be patient with ourselves and not give up, and be steadfast in continuing to try to be virtuous, even if we have to suffer as Christians.
 - Godliness: As we learn God’s will and develop strength in controlling our passions, persevering when times get tough, our focus must be on God as the reason/motivation for our pursuit of virtue. We must constantly seek to know what He wants us to do or not do—constantly looking for His permission and will in our lives by searching His Word. When we do this, we will be living “God like”—godly.
 - Brotherly kindness: In seeking God’s will, trying to live godly, our focus shifts from ourselves and our own problems, and we realize through God’s Word that our job as Christians is to help others (Matthew 22:36-40; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17). The Church should be our top priority in life (Matthew 6:33), alongside living righteously. The Church is not a building, but Christians—people. Peter urges us to develop our affection for other Christians, being kind, considerate, and even sacrificial to them when necessary, as we would for any friend or loved one (Galatians

6:10). This means that we must take every opportunity we can to spend time with other Christians, to develop strong relationships and to edify and encourage them.

- Love for God and others: Finally, we reach the ultimate command upon which Christianity rests, and when disobeyed, underlies all sin (Matthew 22:36-40)—the command to love (*agape*) others, in and out of the Church, even if they are our enemies (Matthew 5:44), and even if we must die in order to help them (John 15:13). God demands complete unselfishness (Matthew 16:24), in the same way He lovingly (i.e., selflessly) gave Jesus for us (John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-11). This form of love is not an affectionate feeling, but behavior that puts others first, doing for them whatever they need, no matter the personal cost. It is the love we would wish others to have for us (Matthew 7:12)! Unlike Satan, who selfishly wishes to hurt others (James 3:14-15), we must do what we can to help others at all times.
4. Peter said that we are God’s “own special people” (1 Peter 2:9). We shouldn’t act, dress, or talk like people who aren’t Christians (who don’t follow the Bible and don’t obey God). It doesn’t matter how many people are doing something wrong, if God’s Word says it’s wrong, it’s still wrong! Usually, if “everybody else is doing it,” it’s wrong anyway (Exodus 23:2; Genesis 6). Whatever God says is wrong can’t be changed by the words and ideas of the people He created.
 5. We should be holy (set apart from the world) because God—the One Who created us, and our Father Who sent His Son to die for us—is holy (1 Peter 1:9,15). He has prepared heaven for everyone who believes in Him and obeys His Word. No one who is unholy or ungodly will spend eternity with God (Hebrews 12:14). Trying to follow Jesus’ example every day pleases God very much. Doing what “everyone else” does will cause us all kinds of trouble. If we are following Jesus, we will be different from many of the people around us. We must do what Jesus would want us to do, regardless of what others may say about us or do to us.
 6. Our friends may want us to go to places or do things that Jesus would not choose for us. We are to be holy. Holiness is being set apart (free) from the world for God—set apart from anything that would offend a perfect God.
 7. We may be invited to go somewhere when it is time for us to be at worship service or Bible class. (We are not to “forsake the assembly,” Hebrews 10:25.)
 8. We may be invited to go to a movie that we should not see, or listen to music that we should not hear. God wants us to think on things that are honest, just, pure, and lovely (Philippians 4:8). It would be difficult to think about good things if we are seeing and hearing things that God does not approve.
 9. People around us may encourage us to use words that God does not like. (Ephesians 4:29 tells us that no “corrupt speech” should come out of our mouths. Matthew 12:36-37 tells us that we will be justified by our words, but also condemned by our words.)



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[God’s Love and Christian Perseverance](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for further study on the importance of remaining faithful as Christians.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- [“Following Jesus Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- On a first grade writing tablet, write some of the key words from this lesson. Ask the kids to copy the words. Talk about the words while they work.
- Using the tree as described in “Recommended Additional Visuals,” let the kids play “Pin the Fruit on the Tree.” Blindfold each child, let him/her choose an apple (with masking tape on the back) from the table and try to put it on the tree. Remove the blindfold and ask him/her if the apple they chose is something God wants us to do or doesn’t want us to do.
- “I will be a follower of Jesus” Craft: Type, “I will be a follower of Jesus” or a verse on the top of a piece of cardstock or construction paper. Give each child a plain cutout of a boy or girl. The children could decorate their cutout boy or girl by using yarn for hair, wiggle eyes, colors, or scrap fabric cut for clothes. When they have decorated themselves, they can glue their boy or girl onto the paper and write their name under the picture.
- [“Bee Like Jesus Activity”](#): Print out (or draw) two big bee hives. Draw a smiley face on one and a frown on the other. Give each child a bee cutout, or bee note pad paper from teacher stores. Write on the bees ways to be like Jesus and ways to not be like Jesus (e.g., obeying parents; telling a lie; stealing candy; etc.). Call on each child, help them read their bee, and have them pick which hive to put their bee on. The hives could be on poster board and the bees be Velcroed to the hive. (Bees, hive, [smiley face, and frown face](#) pictures provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Using the tree as described in “Recommended Additional Visuals,” let the kids play “Pin the Fruit on the Tree.” Blindfold each child, let him/her choose an apple (with masking tape on the back) from the table and try to put it on the tree. Remove the blindfold and ask him/her if the apple they chose is something God wants us to do or doesn’t want us to do.
- “I will be a follower of Jesus” Craft: Type, “I will be a follower of Jesus” or a verse on the top of a piece of cardstock or construction paper. Give each child a plain cutout of a boy or girl. The children could decorate their cutout boy or girl by using yarn for hair, wiggle eyes, colors, or scrap fabric cut for clothes. When they have decorated themselves, they can glue their boy or girl onto the paper and write their name under the picture.
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- Play “Hang Man” with key words from the lesson.
- [“Be Careful What You Think Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Make a worksheet or poster that says, “What Does God Want Us to Think About?” At the top, make a fill-in-the-blank sentence using Philippians 4:8, leaving out the key words, such as “noble,” “pure,” “lovely,” etc. At the bottom, have addition, subtraction, or multiplication problems. Under each space where they put their answer, write one of the words that is missing from the scripture.

Under the blanks where the words go, put the answer to one of the problems. When they solve the math problem, they know where the word goes to complete the scripture.

- [“Philippians 4:8 Fill in the Blank Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- On slips of paper, write situations in which the kids might find themselves and have to make decisions about what to do. You can put all the slips of paper in one jar or bag from which they can draw, or you can number code Pringles® cans (Give each child a turn rolling a dice; he/she takes a slip of paper from the can with the same number on it.). Have the child tell what he should do in that situation.
- [“Be Careful What You Think Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Give students a sheet of paper. One side has “Living for Jesus” on it, and the other has “Not Living for Jesus.” Give the students the following scriptures (mixed up and without the words): steal (Exodus 20:15); cheat (Romans 12:17); lie (Colossians 3:9); be unkind (James 4:11); want things that others have (Romans 7:7); use bad language (Exodus 20:7; Matthew 5:11); share (2 Corinthians 9:7); tell the truth (Zechariah 8:16); be honest (2 Corinthians 13:7); love others (Mark 12:31); be kind to others in our actions and with our words (Ephesians 4:32). Have the kids look up the verses, decide what the action is that each verse is talking about (you may have to help them), then decide which side of the paper to put the action on.
- Play “Hang Man” with key words from the lesson.
- Write the godly characteristics from 2 Peter 1:5-9 (faith, virtue, self-control, godliness, brotherly kindness, love) on strips of paper or index cards and put them in a bag or small container. Have students take turns drawing a card and telling actions they can do to show that particular godly characteristic.
- Make a worksheet or poster that says, “What Does God Want Us to Think About?” At the top, make a fill-in-the-blank sentence using Philippians 4:8, leaving out the key words, such as “noble,” “pure,” “lovely,” etc. At the bottom, have addition, subtraction, or multiplication problems. Under each space where they put their answer, write one of the words that is missing from the scripture. Under the blanks where the words go, put the answer to one of the problems. When they solve the math problem, they know where the word goes to complete the scripture.
- [“Philippians 4:8 Fill in the Blank Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - 2 Peter 1
 - *Big Words for Little People*, Donna Lugg Pape, Standard Publishing
 - Articles from the [May, 2008](#) issue of *Discovery Magazine* (“Corinth: A Church That Bragged About Sin”; “A Lesson from Laodicea: God Wants Your Very Best”; “Don’t Lose the Love”; “Galatian Churches: Confused About God’s Law”)

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

“OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES WHAT YOU SEE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little eyes what you see.

Oh, be careful little feet where you go.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little feet where you go.

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little ears what you hear.

Oh, be careful little mouth what you say. (REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little mouth what you say.

Oh, be careful little hands what you do.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little hands what you do.

“GOD’S LITTLE CHILDREN LOVE LIVING RIGHT!” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Sarah Richey

(Tune: “Mammy’s Li’l Baby Loves Short’nin’ Bread”)

God’s little children love living, living,

God’s little children love living right!

(REPEAT)

Get out the Bible, turn to the place,

Gonna talk about Jesus and His saving grace!

He is our Savior; He saved our race!

Gonna spread Jesus all over this place!

(REPEAT FIRST STANZA)

“WE CAN BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

We can be a follower, follower, follower,

We can be a follower of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Child’s name) can be a follower, follower, follower,

(Child’s name) can be a follower of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Sing using all names.)

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

***** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.**



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2 Peter 1:5-9



New Testament 4
Part 2: Lessons from the Apostle Peter

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Peter 1:5-9; 1 Peter 1-5; Exodus 23:2

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: “[I]t is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:16).

OLDER CHILDREN: “[Y]ou also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15b-16).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- [“O, Be Careful Little Eyes What You See”](#)
- [“We Can Be a Follower of Jesus”](#)
- [“God’s Little Children Love Living Right”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

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- [N.T. Disciples & Peter](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Do You See Christ in Me at All?” Cut out several pieces of poster board in the shape of a large oval mirror. On each one, put a picture of kids and/or adults behaving in different ways (good and bad) or use “emotion” drawings (facial expressions). The last shape should have a mirror of some kind. Discuss how our examples of godly living are so important.



- **Have magazine pictures of famous people who have broken the law or copies of headlines from newspapers or magazine covers about their behavior. Discuss how their behavior does not show Christ.**

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Jesus wants me to try to be more like Him every day, no matter what other people choose to do.

INTRODUCTION:

- Briefly review Sunday morning's lesson (see [N.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
- [N.T. 4 Bible Fact Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Key verse: "Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right" (Proverbs 20:11).
2. It is very important that we are good examples to others ("let our lights shine"; "follow in the footsteps of Jesus"). Have you ever looked up to someone and wanted to be like them—only to be disappointed and hurt because he/she was arrested for doing drugs or hurting someone while he/she was driving drunk? [There is no shortage of celebrities who have been in the news for sexual misconduct, illegal use of drugs or alcohol, stealing, gambling, hurting someone, etc. Steer the discussion from the "famous" to people closer to them, like coaches, parents, etc.] How does it make you feel when you hear about someone you look up to getting into trouble? How do you think other people feel when you disappoint and hurt them?
3. Choosing to do what's right takes practice and planning. If you plan ahead of time to say "no" to certain things, it's much easier to say "no." If you think about what you should do ahead of time, it will be easier not to be persuaded by people who call themselves your friends. Think ahead of time: What would Jesus do? Or, what does the Bible say about this action?
4. We need to remember that others are watching what we do and say. Why should anyone want to come to Bible class (or become a Christian) if he can see that it doesn't make a difference in our lives (1 Peter 2:15; Romans 12:2; 13:13; 14:7-8)? Other people look up to us (brothers and sisters, school friends), and we don't want them—or, more importantly, the Lord—to be disappointed in us.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning's lesson

“MY SHADOW”

By Lora Laycook

Did you ever have the feeling that someone was nearby?
I’ve had that feeling often, and here’s the reason why:

When I run so very fast, I look around to see,
And there is my own shadow running after me.

If good deeds I do each day, my shadow follows me.
If I do things that are bad, he does them, too, you see.

I have many little friends who like to come and play.
And, like my shadow, they do the things I do all day.

I try to remember this and do kind deeds of love,
For that will please my Father Who lives in heaven above.

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