

**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.**