

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.

<u>Bible Basics:</u> 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 beforeand-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 & ROUND

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.