

Objective: Family members will add godly qualities using God's inspired Word as our blueprint for growth.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this second letter to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor sometime between AD 64-67. He probably wrote it from Rome not long before he was martyred.

Bible Basics: Memorize 2 Peter 3:18 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: 2 Peter 1:1-21

Disciple Your Kids:

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how God has given us His Word, the Holy Spirit, and other believers so that we have everything we need to live for Him.



Key Truth: God Gives Believers Everything They Need for Godly Living (2 Peter 1:1-15)

- Second Peter opens with a typical greeting from Peter to the believers in Asia Minor (verses 1-2). Peter assured the believers that God grants His followers divine power for all that is needed for life and godliness. With this power, believers are fully equipped to live a life that is pleasing to God, to stand against obstacles, and to persevere under trials. Believers also have the promises of God on which they can rely. By their union with Christ, His divine nature now works in them. The believer has also been set free from the corruption that exists in the world because of sinful desires (verses 3-4).
- Peter then urged his readers to grow spiritually by adding seven qualities of Christian character to one's faith, each supplementing the previous one (virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love). As long as believers are growing in these virtues, they will be effective and fruitful in their knowledge of Christ and walk with Him. They will never fall if they practice these qualities (verses 5-11). Peter promised that while he lived he would keep reminding the believers of these truths so they would always remember them (verses 12-15).



Key Truth: Christ's Example and God's Inspired Word Are the Basis for Spiritual Growth (2 Peter 1:16-21)

- False teachers had taught myths in an effort to lead these believers astray. Peter, on the other hand, taught them the true faith that is based on historical facts. He was an eyewitness of the events and truths he had been teaching them about Christ, including the glory of His transfiguration and the voice of God affirming Jesus as His Son (verses 16-18).
- Peter then spoke of having the written prophetic word. He encouraged the readers to pay attention to it until the Lord returns. The Word of God would aid them in knowing the truth and nurturing their spiritual development. He considered the Scriptures a sure source of inspired truth given by God through His prophets. He encouraged his readers to continually give close attention to the Scriptures and to put them into practice.
- The prophets wrote as they were inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. True prophecy never comes through human ability or knowledge, but only through divine guidance of the Holy Spirit (verses 19-21).

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 has God given us to help us grow in our faith and live for Him?**
- What promises has God given us that strengthen our faith?
- How do believers add godly qualities to our faith?
- Why is it important that the apostles were eyewitnesses to the words and works of Jesus?
- What role did the Holy Spirit play in giving us God's Word?
- **What is grace?**
- **How did Peter experience God's grace?**
- **How have you experienced God's grace?**

Everyday Extras

We are familiar with growth charts, where we measure a child's height and weight at intervals to see how they have grown. Challenge your children to grow spiritually too. You might set up a "growth chart" with measurements such as memorizing a Scripture verse, reading the Bible daily, praying regularly, doing a kind deed for others, talking with the family about what they learned in the Bible, or other challenges that fit your child's age and needs. You can find a free, at-home "Measure What Matters" chart at D6Family.com/d6curriculum/teacher/.

To help your family grow in their knowledge of Jesus, find a great Bible storybook and read a story daily at bedtime. All of you will learn from it!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned King Darius was upset that Daniel had to be thrown into the lions' den. He hoped the God Daniel prayed to would save him from the lions. The next morning when the king went to the lions' den, he learned Daniel's God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths and Daniel was safe. I am so glad **God Helps His Children** and He saved Daniel.