

Session 1 Guide



Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 Peter. Then consider taking the So What? challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

Introduction

- 1. Who wrote 1 Peter?** (Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ.)
- 2. Who was the letter written to?** (God's chosen people who are away from their homes.)
- 3. Who can be one of God's chosen people today?** (Anyone who follows Jesus.)
- 4. Where is our true home?** (Where God rules completely. Where heaven and earth come together.)
- 5. Life away from our true home can be messy. What messiness do you see in the world today?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Do something messy with your toddler. Finger paint, use Play-Doh, or eat spaghetti for dinner. Practice saying, "Life is messy!" together.

For Grade Schoolers

What makes a home, a home? Have your child make a list of their favorite things about their home. Do they like their cozy bed? The flowers in the garden? The food around the table? Their friends next door? What do they think will make our true heaven-and-earth home, home?

For You

Take some time to journal about where you feel the mess of life—relationships? Grief? Pain? Then pray and ask God to create hope in your heart for the day when we experience our true home with Him.

Session 2 Guide

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Read Again

1 Peter 1:2-5

“Now we hope for the blessings God has for his children. These blessings are kept for you in heaven. They cannot be destroyed or be spoiled or lose their beauty.”

(1 Peter 1:4, ICB)

- 1. What is hope?** (A desire for a certain thing to happen. Looking forward to something good.)
- 2. Is it our job to make ourselves holy?** (No. Peter says it's the Holy Spirit's work.)
- 3. Something that saves us is called...what?** (Our salvation.)
- 4. When Peter talks about “the end of time,” what does he mean?** (The day when God sets everything right.)
- 5. Name something you remember hoping for that didn't come true. How did that make you feel?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Hug a favorite stuffed animal together. Say “God protects us!” together several times.

For Grade Schoolers

Ask, “What are some things you are hoping for?” Talk about what it means that God has given us a living hope. (He promises good things to us in Christ.)

For You

What are some ways you can keep hope alive in your life? Brainstorm ways you can remind yourself to hope in what Christ has promised us about our future.

Session 3 Guide



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Read Again

1 Peter 1:6-9

“You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You cannot see him now, but you believe in him. You are filled with a joy that cannot be explained. And that joy is full of glory.”

(1 Peter 1:8, ICB)

- 1. What does Peter say makes us happy and hopeful?** (Knowing we have our “happily ever after” waiting for us.)
- 2. Why do bad things still happen to us today?** (Because we aren't there yet. We aren't living in God's perfect place.)
- 3. Peter says “faith” is believing...what?** (That God can save us from our broken world and bring us into his perfect one.)
- 4. What makes it easier to get through hard times today?** (Believing our stories will end with a “happily ever after.”)
- 5. Do you believe God can do anything? Do you believe he can bring us into a perfect world? How does that make you feel?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Read a story together that ends in “happily ever after.” Practice saying the phrase “happily ever after” together.

For Grade Schoolers

Take time to imagine together what “happily ever after” might look like in God's perfect world. What broken things will be fixed? What will our bodies be like? Who will we see there? What is Jesus like? Look forward to this world together.

For you

It can be easy to focus on the painful things that happen to us in this world. Do you fix your gaze on trouble, or on the coming reality of eternity with Christ? Take some time to think and journal about the perfect eternal reality we are headed toward. How does this diminish the size of your troubles today?

Session 4 Guide

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Read Again

1 Peter 1:13–21

“In the past you did not understand, so you did the evil things you wanted. But now you are children of God who obey. So do not live as you lived in the past.”

(1 Peter 1:14, ICB)

- 1. Because we are now children of God, we should...what?** (Listen to him. Do what he says.)
- 2. When the Bible says we should “fear” God, does it mean we should run away from him?** (No. It means we should respect him.)
- 3. What does it mean to “respect” God?** (To take him seriously. To listen to what he says.)
- 4. Peter says people can live in a “worthless” way. What way is that?** (To live selfishly. To put ourselves first, and not care about others.)
- 5. Do you think life gets better when we listen to our parents and teachers? What about God?**

So What?

For toddlers

Say or sing the phrase “We are children of God!” together.

For Grade Schoolers

Together, talk about the ways we selfishly put ourselves first. Can your child think of a time when he or she was selfish? Talk about how God bought us out of that life. In moments of selfishness, remind each other of the new way of life by using the phrase, “God gave us a new way of life.”

For You

How is your fear, or respect, toward God? Do you take His commands seriously? The next time the Spirit prompts you to action, challenge yourself to obey what God is saying—whether he tells you to give generously, stop grumbling, or share the gospel with a neighbor.

Session 5 Guide



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Read Again

1 Peter 1:22–25

“You have been born again. This new life did not come from something that dies, but from something that cannot die. You were born again through God’s living message that continues forever.”

(1 Peter 1:23, ICB)

- 1. Peter says we should become “pure.” How does that happen?** (We move away from a selfish way of living and towards a new way based on love.)
- 2. Peter also says we should be “born again.” What does that mean?** (We have a new life. We take off the old self and put on the new self.)
- 3. This “new life” comes in two different ways. What’s the first way?** (When we follow Jesus, we immediately have new relationships with God. We are now his children.)
- 4. What’s the second way?** (We’re also made new from the inside out, as the Holy Spirit helps us change our habits from bad to good.)
- 5. Why do you think it’s hard to stop being selfish? Do you think God can help?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Look at a picture together from the day your child was born. Explain that the baby in the picture is your child, and that was the day they were born into the world.

For Grade Schoolers

Discuss what it means to have a relationship with God. Ask your child what his or her relationship with God is like. What do they talk about? What does God speak to your child about? Share with your child about your own relationship with God. Then talk about how each of you could keep growing in your relationship with God (prayer, reading Scripture, listening).

For You

Pray about one area in your life that you’d like to see the Holy Spirit sanctify. Ask Him to change you from the inside out, to remove the sin in this area and make you like Jesus.

Session 6 Guide



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Read Again

1 Peter 2:1-3

“As newborn babies want milk, you should want the pure and simple teaching. By it you can mature in your salvation.”

(1 Peter 2:2, ICB)

- 1. What is a “hypocrite”?** (Someone who says we should live one way, but then lives a different way.)
- 2. When we follow Jesus, do all our bad habits disappear overnight?** (No. God will change our hearts, but it takes practice to change our habits.)
- 3. What do babies need in order to grow?** (They need milk.)
- 4. And what do baby Christians need to grow?** (We need to learn about God and what he teaches in the Bible.)
- 5. Do you have any habits you're trying to change? Is it hard or easy to change habits?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Have your child watch a baby drink from a bottle. Talk about how little the baby is and ask your child if he or she thinks the baby is hungry. Be gentle.

For Grade Schoolers

If your child is old enough, give him or her the opportunity to gently and carefully hold a baby. If it's okay with the baby's parents, let your child give the baby a bottle. Talk about what your child experienced and discuss together the ways a young Christian might be similar to a baby.

For You

In the last session, you started to pray about an area of your life in which you wanted to see change. Today, start a tracking system for a habit you want to change in that same area. Each day you successfully implement the desired habit or eliminate the bad habit, put a checkmark on the calendar. Pray each day for God's help, and see how many days you can continue the new habit streak.

Session 7 Guide



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Read Again

1 Peter 2:4–10

“But you are chosen people. You are the King’s priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone. God chose you to tell about the wonderful things he has done. He called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

(1 Peter 2:9, ICB)

- 1. What does Peter call Jesus that reminds us of the temple?** (A “Living Stone.”)
- 2. Jesus is a special kind of stone. What kind?** (Jesus is the Cornerstone.)
- 3. What does a Cornerstone do for a building?** (It sets the pattern for the whole building.)
- 4. And what does Jesus do for us?** (Jesus sets the pattern for how we should live our lives.)
- 5. If Jesus is the pattern for how we should live, how can we learn more about living like Jesus?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Play a game with your toddler. Flip the lights off, and then surprise them by flipping the lights on. When the light comes on, say, “Jesus brings us light!” Enjoy the giggles.

For Grade Schoolers

Find a dark place in your home to hang up strings of twinkling lights. After you turn them on together and enjoy the new sparkling lights, talk about what it means for God to call us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

For You

Carve out five minutes each morning or evening to light a candle and meditate on the way Jesus called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Ask Him to make you a light to those around you.

Session 8 Guide



Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 Peter. Then consider taking the So What? challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 Peter 2:11-12

“People who do not believe are living all around you. They might say that you are doing wrong. So live good lives. Then they will see the good things you do, and they will give glory to God on the day when Christ comes again.”

(1 Peter 2:12, ICB)

- 1. What is a “sojourner”?** (A traveler. Someone who is “just passing through.”)
- 2. What is an “exile”?** (Someone who isn’t allowed to live in their true home.)
- 3. Why does Peter call us “sojourners and exiles”?** (Because our true home is in the Kingdom of God, but we aren’t there yet.)
- 4. What does Peter mean when he says our lives are a “witness”?** (Our lives show people the power of God. People see God’s power when they see change in our lives.)
- 5. How does it make you feel to know people can see God by watching you?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Make up a simple song about being “visitors and strangers in this world.” Sing it together several times.

For Grade Schoolers

Talk about your child’s favorite detective mystery story or movie. Ask them how the witnesses helped the detective solve the case and understand the clues. Then talk about how our lives help others see God more clearly. What is one thing your child can do to help others see God this week?

For You

Even though we’re strangers and visitors in this world, we sometimes get comfortable, as though this world is our home. In what ways have you settled in to this world and gotten comfortable? Commit to taking one step this week to reversing this.

Session 9 Guide



Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 Peter. Then consider taking the So What? challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 Peter 2:13–15, 20–21

“So when you do good, you stop foolish people from saying stupid things about you. This is what God wants.”

(1 Peter 2:15, ICB)

- 1. Peter told the Christians to obey their rules and their laws. Why?** (Because in general, laws are good and help people get along.)
- 2. If we don't obey the law, what will people think about Jesus?** (That following Jesus doesn't make you a very good person.)
- 3. Can there ever be bad laws?** (Yes. Even Peter went to prison for not obeying bad laws.)
- 4. How do we know if a law is bad or good?** (If a law says to do something that God says not to do, that law isn't good.)
- 5. We live in countries where most laws are good. What if you lived somewhere where laws were bad? Do you think you would be brave enough to do what's right?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Play the game “Simon Says” together to give your child practice in obeying instructions.

For Grade Schoolers

Have a discussion about authority. Ask your child, “Which laws can you think of that are good? Which laws can you think of that are not good? Why should we always do what's right?”

For You

How are you doing as a law-abiding citizen? Are there areas where you are not totally obeying authority? (Maybe you're driving over the speed limit, cheating on taxes, or doing something else that seems “small”.) Take a step this week to obey even a seemingly “small” law.

Session 10 Guide



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Read Again

1 Peter 3:8–12

“Do not do wrong to a person to pay him back for doing wrong to you. Or do not insult someone to pay him back for insulting you. But ask God to bless that person. Do this, because you yourselves were called to receive a blessing.”

(1 Peter 3:9, ICB)

1. Peter says wives should respect their husbands, and husbands should...what?

(Respect their wives right back.)

2. Do people with more power in this world get more blessings from God? (No.)

Everyone who follows Jesus gets the same blessings.)

3. Not needing to get even with those who hurt us is a sign of...what? (Of God's power

working within us.)

4. If we want to change the world, what's one thing we should do? (Pray for our

enemies.)

5. Have you ever really, really wanted to get even with someone? How would it feel to pray for that person instead?

So What?

For Toddlers

Greet friends with a hug today!

For Grade Schoolers

Have a conversation about friends and enemies. Ask your child if he or she has any enemies, then pray together for that person. Brainstorm ideas about how your child can begin to befriend this person.

For You

Do you have any enemies? Begin to intentionally pray for that person daily, asking God to bless him or her.

Session 11 Guide



Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 Peter. Then consider taking the So What? challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 Peter 3:13–4:2

“But you may suffer for doing right. Even if that happens, you are blessed. Don’t be afraid of the things they fear. Do not dread those things.”

(1 Peter 3:9, ICB)

- 1. Can God’s blessings be taken away from us?** (No. We might suffer, but we can’t lose what matters most.)
- 2. Why don’t we need to be afraid of dying?** (Because God has a “happily ever after” waiting for us.)
- 3. Is every part of the Bible easy to understand?** (No. There are tricky parts. But it’s okay if we don’t understand every part.)
- 4. Does suffering make sin more powerful? Or less powerful?** (Suffering makes your friendship with God more powerful, and the whispers of sin less powerful.)
- 5. Have you ever lost something really special? How does it feel to know our “happily ever after” with God is something we can never lose?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Build a tower out of blocks. Then have fun breaking it apart as you say, “God’s friendship breaks sin’s power!” together.

For Grade Schoolers

Make a plan for what it looks like to turn to God on a bad day or during a hard time. What can your child pray on a day like that? Practice praying the prayer together. Then talk about how we can expect God to give us strength when we call out to him on a hard day.

For You

Have you experienced God’s friendship during suffering? How did it break the power of sin in your life? How does his friendship remove fear? Spend time journaling and reflecting.

Session 12 Guide



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Read Again

1 Peter 4:3–19

“But you should be happy that you are sharing in Christ’s sufferings. You will be happy and full of joy when Christ comes again in glory.”

(1 Peter 4:13, ICB)

- 1. Does Peter know when Jesus is coming back?** (No. Only God knows that. Peter just wants us to be ready.)
- 2. What is “judgment”?** (A kind of testing to see if something is true or false, weak or strong.)
- 3. How is suffering a kind of judgment for the Church?** (It shows whether our faith—our trust in God—is weak or strong.)
- 4. Does God want us to suffer?** (No. He wants us to trust Him when we do suffer.)
- 5. Do you think having a bad day can help you trust in God? What can you do to remember God in the middle of your next bad day?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Make up a simple song and sing, “Trust God on bad days!” together.

For Grade Schoolers

Have your child pick out some of their favorite verses about trusting God, about God’s goodness, and about the “happily ever after” to come. Then let your child copy the verses onto notecards with markers. Use a hole punch and ribbon to tie the cards together into a booklet they can carry with them to remind them to trust God on bad days.

For You

Along with your child, choose one of your favorite verses about trusting God. Be creative and decorate a notecard with your verse. Then put it in a place where you will see it consistently. Pray that God would grow your trust in Him.

Session 13 Guide



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Read Again

1 Peter 5:1-5

“In the same way, younger men should be willing to be under older men. And all of you should be very humble with each other. God is against the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.”

(1 Peter 5:5, ICB)

- 1. What is an “elder”?** (Someone who is older than you.)
- 2. The Old Testament says God is a good...what?** (A Good Shepherd.)
- 3. Leaders in the Church should also be good shepherds. What does that mean?** (We put others first. We try to help the people we are leading.)
- 4. A crown is a symbol for...what?** (The honor and glory waiting for leaders who lead like Jesus.)
- 5. Do you like to be the leader? What would it look like for you to lead like Jesus did?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Play “Follow the Leader” together. Take turns being the leader and the follower.

For Grade Schoolers

Give your child the opportunity to lead the family in something, like setting the table for dinner, cleaning the basement, or helping younger siblings with homework. Beforehand, have your child come up with three ways to serve the people they are leading. Ask them how this displays Jesus to the family.

For You

As an elder in your family, take a moment for a heart-check. Are you leading your family like a good shepherd, or domineering over them? Come up with a new way to serve them today.

Session 14 Guide



Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 Peter. Then consider taking the So What? challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 Peter 5:6–11

“Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you.”

(1 Peter 5:7, ICB)

- 1. Why don't we need to lift ourselves up and push others down?** (Because God will lift us up.)
- 2. When will God lift us up?** (When Jesus comes back and makes everything right.)
- 3. Does Peter say the devil wants to eat us?** (No. He wants to lie to us. Like he lied to Adam and Eve.)
- 4. When Peter says we'll “suffer for a short time,” what does he mean?** (He means “short” compared to our happily ever after lives with God.)
- 5. What are some lies about God that you might hear in our world today?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Practice shouting, “No lies today, Sneaky Snake!”

For Grade Schoolers

Talk with your child about what lies they might be hearing from the Sneaky Snake (maybe condemnation, shame, or lies about God's character.) Then take time to address the lies with truth. Teach your child what it looks and sounds like to replace lies with truth. Make this a regular practice.

For You

Begin to cast your cares on God. When you notice yourself worrying, switch to prayer. Give your worries to God, and choose to move on with the day in faith.

Session 15 Guide



Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 Peter. Then consider taking the So What? challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 Peter 5:12-14

"I wrote to comfort and encourage you. I wanted to tell you that this is the true grace of God. Stand strong in that grace."

(1 Peter 5:12b, ICB)

- 1. Why did Peter write this letter?** (To encourage the Christians who were going through tough times. To give them hope.)
- 2. Where does Peter say our hope comes from?** (From believing the promises of God—that He has chosen us to be His children.)
- 3. Does that mean we won't have any bad days right now?** (No. We have bad days because we aren't in our true home yet.)
- 4. When will we be in our true home with no suffering?** (When Jesus comes back and makes everything right!)
- 5. How does it make you feel to know that God has a "happily ever after" waiting for you? How could you share that happy feeling with someone else?**

So What?

For Toddlers

Give your child a kiss! Like we did in Session 1, practice saying the words, "Happily ever after!" together again. Repeating this theme is helpful.

For Grade Schoolers

Have a push-up contest. See who can do the most push-ups in a row, and then talk about how God's grace makes us strong. How does He strengthen us in the middle of suffering?

For You

Take time to write down and reflect on the promises of God. Make a list of your favorite promises, and meditate on each one, soaking in all God has said. How does this increase your hope?