



Peter Explains Belief in Jesus

1 Peter 1:3-9

“Faith” may be a hard word for first- and second-graders to understand. Many of them probably don’t use the word in everyday conversations with friends or family. Yet it is a key part of their walk with Jesus. Use this lesson to help them understand that faith in Jesus is essentially trusting him in both good times and bad times.



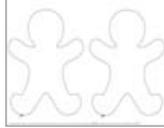
► **Bible Point**
Have faith in Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What Could It Be? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Talk about an object hidden under a blanket.	blanket, odd-shaped item, treats, tape	Hide a large, odd-shaped item (such as a lampshade, a trash can turned on its side, or a bicycle wheel) under a blanket. Consider taping the edges of the blanket to the floor if you think your children might be tempted to peek under the blanket.
2 Bible Exploration	Faithful People <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Illustrate what a faith-filled person looks like.	Bibles, My Bible Fun, markers, pencils, scissors, tape, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: 1 copy per child of 1 person on the “Paper People” handout, CD	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. 
	Why We Have Faith in Jesus <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a sad story as a group, and then sing a song about giving worries to God.	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Key Verse
“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Romans 5:3-4).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will learn how to have a strong faith in Jesus.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	We Can Overcome <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Share difficulties and learn they can have faith, no matter what happens to them.	markers Teacher Pack: 1 copy per child of 1 person on the "Paper People" handout 	
	Romans 5:3-4 <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a fun Hopscotch game to learn the Key Verse and what it means.	Bibles, masking tape, construction paper, markers, pitcher of pink lemonade, small cups	Use masking tape to create a Hopscotch grid on the floor. Make at least 1 grid for every 10 children. Write the following words on sheets of construction paper, one word per sheet: <i>perseverance</i> and <i>hope</i> . Make 2 sheets per word of the following words: <i>sufferings, character, and love</i> . You'll need 1 set of words for each Hopscotch grid. At the far end of each Hopscotch grid, place small cups and a pitcher of pink lemonade labeled "love." You'll also need tape and markers at each grid.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	paper person from the "We Can Overcome" activity	



What Could It Be? Supplies

blanket
odd-shaped item
treats
tape

ALLERGY ALERT

What Could It Be? Easy Prep

Hide a large, odd-shaped item (such as a lampshade, a trash can turned on its side, or a bicycle wheel) under a blanket. Consider taping the edges of the blanket to the floor if you think your children might be tempted to peek under the blanket.

1 GETTING STARTED

What Could It Be?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Then have children gather around the blanket with the item you placed underneath it.

Say: **Today we're going to talk about faith. Let's begin our time together by talking about what it means to have faith in something.**

Ask:

- What do you think might be under this blanket? Why do you think that?
- What do you hope is under this blanket?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident are you that that's what's under the blanket?

Say: **There could be almost anything under this blanket. Let's go ahead and find out what's under the blanket.** Remove the blanket and take a few minutes to enjoy the treat while you discuss the following questions.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to have to wait to find out what was under the blanket?
- How well did your expectations measure up to what really was there?
- Tell about a time something happened just the way you imagined.

Say: **Today we're going to talk about having faith in Jesus. Faith is believing in what Jesus can do. It's like trusting that there was something good under the blanket. One good reason for us to have faith is because we have a good God. We can count on God and Jesus to provide us with exactly what we need—even if it's not quite what we were expecting. As we explore today's Bible passage, we'll learn to ► HAVE FAITH IN JESUS. Let's turn to the Bible passage now.**





2

**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

Faithful People

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to 1 Peter 1:3-9, and show kids the passage. Help children find the passage in their own Bibles.

Give each child this week's My Bible Fun page. Also give each child one of the "Paper People" you copied. Set out scissors, markers, and pencils for kids to share. Have kids cut out the outline of the person and tape it to the page in My Bible Fun.

Say: **Today we're going to show what a faith-filled person looks like based on the good news in our Bible passage from the letter we call 1 Peter. I'll read one verse of our passage and then ask you to draw a picture on your person.**

Say: **"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."**

Have kids draw a heart in the person to represent God's mercies in Jesus coming back to life.

Say: **"...and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you..."**

Have kids draw clouds above the person with a treasure chest to represent heaven.

Say: **"...who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."**

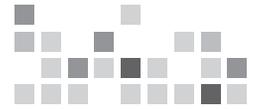
Have kids draw a shield on the person's arm.

Say: **"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials."**

Have kids draw muscles on the biceps of the person to represent strength in the face of suffering.

Say: **"These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."**

Have kids write "FAITH IS COOL!" underneath the person.



Faithful People Supplies

- Bibles
- My Bible Fun markers
- pencils
- scissors
- tape
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

- 1 copy per child of 1 person on the "Paper People" handout
- CD: "Faith" (Hebrews 11:1) (track 9)

Faithful People Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





Say: “**Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...**”

Have kids draw a happy face on the person to express joy.

Say: “**...for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**”

Have kids draw a cross above the person to represent salvation.

Say: **The message of our Bible passage today is simple: Have faith in Jesus, who overcame death. Faith is a valuable thing! Let’s sing a song that’s all about faith.**

Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play “Faith” (Hebrews 11:1) (track 9 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions.



Seems like there’s so much to hope for, (*raise hands high, then bring both to chest*)

So many dreams, I wish they all could come true. (*hands by head like sleeping on a pillow for “dreams,” place pointer fingers by mouth, then move them forward for “true”*)

When I think about your ways, Lord, (*point both hands to head, then move both hands forward like a path*)

It gives me so much faith in all that you do. (*praying hands, then palms up*)

Faith to see beyond what I can see. (*praying hands, then hand above eyes*)

Faith to know that you will do great things. (*praying hands, then point to everyone*)

I will trust you, Lord, I’ll always believe. (*motion “trust” as if holding on to a rope, then point to head and clasp hands for “believe”*)

As I hold on to my faith, (*motion like you’re gripping something, then make praying hands*)

Jesus, you are holding on to me. (*big scooping motion into a hug*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Faith to see beyond what I can see. (*praying hands, then hand above eyes*)

Faith to know that you will do great things. (*praying hands, then point to everyone*)

I will trust you, Lord, I’ll always believe. (*motion “trust” as if holding on to a rope, then point to head and clasp hands for “believe”*)

As I hold on to my faith, (*motion like you’re gripping something, then make praying hands*)

Jesus, you are holding on to me. (*big scooping motion into a hug*)

As I hold on to my faith, (*motion like you’re gripping something, then make praying hands*)

Jesus, you are holding on to me. (*big scooping motion into a hug*)

“Faith” (Hebrews 11:1) by Jay Stocker. © 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were the symbols that made the most sense to you on your paper person? Why?
- What are some other words you'd use to describe what faith is?
- What does it mean to have faith to see beyond what you can see?
- What gets in the way of having that kind of faith in God?

Say: **Your paper person represents those who put their faith in Jesus. We can be hopeful because we trust in Jesus, who died and then came back to life. That's why we can ► HAVE FAITH IN JESUS. That's great news! Let's look at how this is good news no matter what happens in our lives.**

Why We Have Faith in Jesus

What You'll Do

Say: **Peter gave us lots of good reasons to be faithful. We can trust in God through any worries we have. Let's create a story of how bad things can build up to test our faith. Let me start.**

Start your group story by saying something like, "Once upon a time, there were two friends walking along a sidewalk when one of them fell down..." Then go around the group, inviting each child to add a line to the sad story. Invite kids to really ham it up and use their imaginations to the fullest.

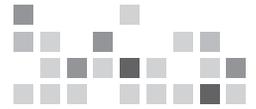
After everyone has contributed a line to the sad story, gather everyone's attention.

Say: **Our story shows how easy it is to worry about things and for fear to take over. Let's sing a song based on 1 Peter that helps us understand that God wants us to give our worries to him.**

Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play "Give All Your Worries to God" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 10 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions.

 **What are you worried about now?** (*right palm up, left palm up, shrug two times*)
Trying to figure it out now. (*point to forehead*)
God knows right where you are now. (*point up, point to head, motion both arms down*)
You know it's all in his hands now. (*right palm up, left palm up, push palms up two times*)

You know he cares for you. (*hug self, point out*)
He always cares for you. (*hug self, point out*)
You know he'll see you through. (*one hand above eyes, look to one side*)
He'll always see you through. (*one hand above eyes, look in the opposite direction*)



Why We Have Faith in Jesus Supplies

- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Give All Your Worries to God" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 10)





Give all your worries and cares *(make praying hands)*
To God, for he cares about you. *(hug self, point out)*
He cares about you. *(hug self, point out)*

Give all your worries and cares *(make praying hands)*
To God, for he cares about you. *(hug self, point out)*
He cares about you. He cares about you. *(hug self, point out)*

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now? *(right palm up, left palm up, shrug two times)*
Trying to figure it out now. *(point to forehead)*
God knows right where you are now. *(point up, point to head, motion both arms down)*
You know it's all in his hands now. *(right palm up, left palm up, push palms up two times)*

"Give All Your Worries to God" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2013 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to imagine troubles in our group story?
- Which troubles in our story sounded like they'd cause the most worry? Why?
- What do you do when you go through troubles and problems?
- What do you think it means to have faith in Jesus in hard times?

Say: No matter what happens to us in our lives, we can have hope when we
 ► **HAVE FAITH IN JESUS.** Whether they're big problems and worries or small ones, God wants us to believe in Jesus' power to deal with them. Sometimes we might struggle through hard times, but we can have faith in Jesus and know for sure that he'll *always* be with us.

3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

We Can Overcome

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Now let's talk about how to ► **HAVE FAITH IN JESUS.** We had fun making up a group story in our last activity, but we're going to share some of our real worries or things that made us sad. Please get with a partner and tell about a time you were really sad or worried in the last few weeks.

**We Can Overcome
Supplies**

markers

Teacher Pack

1 copy per child of 1 person on the "Paper People" handout





Allow time for kids to share with their partners, and then gather everyone’s attention.

Say: **We know that bad things happen to everyone. But the Bible tells us that even though bad things happen, Jesus gives us faith to overcome these bad things. Let’s look a bit more at how we can ask Jesus to give us more faith.**

Give each child one of the “Paper People” you copied. Have kids work with their partners.

Say: **On your paper person, draw or write something you’ll do this week to have faith in Jesus. For example, maybe you’ll pray about a difficult situation before you face it. Or maybe you’ll draw a picture of what you think heaven will be like and hang it in your bedroom. Or you could ask your parents or pastor what it means to have a friendship with Jesus. When you’ve finished, share your picture with your partner.**

Give kids a few minutes to work and to share their paper people with their partners. Then gather everyone’s attention.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do bad things happen to everyone?
- What can we do when faced with difficulties or troubles?
- How does Jesus give us faith, even when bad things are happening to us?

Say: **Jesus gives us hope no matter what happens to us in life. In his letter, Peter reminds us that God is always with us and that he’s helping our faith to grow. His message to Christians in the Bible is the same as it is to us: ► HAVE FAITH IN JESUS.**

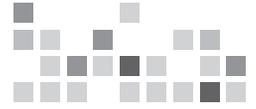
Romans 5:3-4

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

If you prepared more than one Hopscotch grid, form as many groups as you have grids, and have each group sit by one of the grids.

Say: **Today we’re learning that Jesus gives us hope. There’s a passage in the Bible that tells us where hope comes from and how we can have hope. It’s in the book of Romans.**

Open your Bible to Romans 5:3-4, and show kids the passage. Help kids find the passage in their own Bibles. **Listen while I read Romans 5:3-4 to you: “Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”**



Romans 5:3-4 Supplies

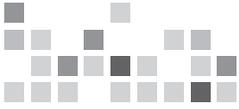
- Bibles
- masking tape
- construction paper
- markers
- pitcher of pink lemonade
- small cups

Romans 5:3-4 Easy Prep

Use masking tape to create a Hopscotch grid on the floor. Make at least 1 grid for every 10 children.

Write the following words on sheets of construction paper, one word per sheet: *perseverance* and *hope*. Make 2 sheets per word of the following words: *sufferings*, *character*, and *love*. You’ll need 1 set of words for each Hopscotch grid. At the far end of each Hopscotch grid, place small cups and a pitcher of pink lemonade labeled “love.” You’ll also need tape and markers at each grid.





There are a lot of big words in that passage, aren't there? Let's talk about what they mean. First, this verse says that we can rejoice in our sufferings.

Show the children the "sufferings" word sheets, and tape them securely to the first two blocks of the Hopscotch grid. Have the children gather around and draw symbols on the sheets to remind them of sufferings and rejoicing. For example, they might draw frowns to represent sufferings and rainbows to represent rejoicing.

Ask:

- **What are sufferings?**
- **What does it mean to rejoice?**
- **How can we rejoice in our sufferings?**

Say: **The passage tells us that sufferings help us learn to persevere.**

Show the children the "perseverance" word sheet, and tape it to the next block in the Hopscotch grid.

Say: ***Perseverance* means that we stick with something. When we suffer through something, we can learn to keep working at doing the right thing even when it's hard.**

Invite the children to decorate the sheet with symbols that will help them remember what perseverance is, such as hands folded in prayer.

Ask:

- **Tell about a time you kept working at doing the right thing even though it was hard.**

Say: **This verse says that when we persevere, or keep doing the right things, we learn to have character. That means that we learn to be better people.**

Show the children the "character" word sheets, and tape them to the next two blocks in the Hopscotch grid. Have the children decorate the sheets with symbols that will help them remember what character is, such as a handshake or a hand taking an oath.

Say: **Next the verse says that when we learn to have character, we'll have hope.**

Ask:

- **What do you think it means to have hope?**

Show the children the "hope" word sheet, and tape it to the next block in the Hopscotch grid. Have the children decorate the sheet with symbols that will help them remember what hope is.

Say: **The Bible tells us that hope never disappoints us because God has poured his love into our hearts. Hoping in God is a sure thing.**

Show the children the "love" word sheets, and tape them to the next two blocks in the Hopscotch grid, right in front of the pink lemonade.



Say: **We'll pretend the pink lemonade at the end of the Hopscotch grid is God's love. Now let's play Hopscotch to help us learn why Jesus gives us hope.**

Invite the children to take turns hopping through the Hopscotch grid and saying the sequence of words: "Sufferings lead to perseverance, perseverance leads to character, character leads to hope, and hope is sure because of God's love."

At the end of the Hopscotch grid, have the children each pour a glass of pink lemonade and drink it.

Continue until every child has had at least one turn to go through the Hopscotch grid.

Then regain the children's attention.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was hopping through the words on the Hopscotch grid like or unlike getting through real sufferings?**
- **What are ways to have faith even when things look hopeless?**
- **What difference does belief in Jesus make when we're going through something hard?**

Say: **Our Key Verse and Peter's letter have one thing in common: They both tell us that whatever hardship or suffering we go through now is worth it when we ► HAVE FAITH IN JESUS. That's because we have hope in the future and know that today's troubles are not the final word.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

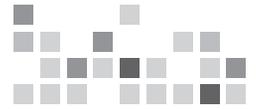
Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can have faith in Jesus this week.**

Say: **Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge this week, look at the second paper person you made where you drew or wrote something you will do this week to have faith in Jesus. Whatever you chose to do, this will be your Daily Challenge for the week.**

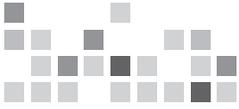
Be sure to share your Daily Challenge as well with the kids. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same!



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun paper person from the "We Can Overcome" activity





Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.

Say: **Today we've learned about what it means to ► HAVE FAITH IN JESUS. Peter encourages us to stay strong in Jesus when problems and worries come our way. Let's show our faith in Jesus this week by following through with our commitments.**

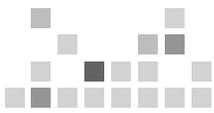
Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about having faith in Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for giving us hope and asking for help in keeping faithful in all things.





Lyrics ■■■■

Faith (Hebrews 11:1)

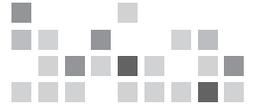
Seems like there's so much to hope for,
So many dreams, I wish they all could come true.
When I think about your ways, Lord,
It gives me so much faith in all that you do

Faith to see beyond what I can see.
Faith to know that you will do great things.
I will trust you, Lord, I'll always believe.
As I hold on to my faith,
Jesus, you are holding on to me.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Faith to see beyond what I can see.
Faith to know that you will do great things.
I will trust you, Lord, I'll always believe.
As I hold on to my faith,
Jesus, you are holding on to me.
As I hold on to my faith,
Jesus, you are holding on to me.

"Faith" (Hebrews 11:1) by Jay Stocker. © 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Lyrics

Give All Your Worries to God (1 Peter 5:7)

What are you worried about now?
 Trying to figure it out now.
 God knows right where you are now.
 You know it's all in his hands now.

You know he cares for you.
 He always cares for you.
 You know he'll see you through.
 He'll always see you through.

Give all your worries and cares
 To God, for he cares about you.
 He cares about you.

Give all your worries and cares
 To God, for he cares about you.
 He cares about you. He cares about you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
 Trying to figure it out now.
 God knows right where you are now.
 You know it's all in his hands now.

"Give All Your Worries to God" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2013 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

OK
TO COPY

© FaithWeaver NOW™ group.com.

