



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

2 Peter 1:1-4, 10-21

Acts 10:38-43

Session Theme:

Remembrance

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: Light in the Darkness

Bring a candle and a flashlight to class with you. Invite kids to tell of a time when they or their family had to use one of these items.

Ask kids to list as many situations as they can imagine where a candle or flashlight could come in handy. How would we navigate in the dark without them?

In today's Bible story, the Apostle Peter is writing a letter to his friends. In it, he compares the Word of God to a lamp that shines in a dark place. What did he mean? How is God's Word like a lamp? Let's begin our lesson and find out!

c. Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the letters of faithful servants like Peter. Your holy Word is "a lamp unto our feet" and a light to guide our way. Help us to always value the teachings of the Bible and look to it for help and wisdom. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- "Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet" (hymn)
- "The B-I-B-L-E" (children's song)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Letters

In addition to the letters written by the Apostle Paul to specific places or people, other more general letters, called epistles, were written by a few of the apostles to be read by congregations at large, to teach people how faith guides our everyday lives.

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level:

Children: Read aloud the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read aloud Scripture from the Bible

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Pre-Readers: Coloring Page and Activity

Elementary: Children's Pages (Worksheet and Drama)

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, and Questions)

Adults: Bible Study (Large or Small Group Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. Use the Bible Rhyme as a short review, or simply ask questions to help the students recall the events of the story.

Youth/Adult: Discuss "Reflection for the Week Ahead"

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Pre-Readers: Teacher leads a simple prayer

Children: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: 2 Peter 1:1-4, 10-21

1. Based on verses 1-2, to whom do you think Peter is writing? Were they believers? How can you tell?

In verse 1, Peter says he is writing to “those who have obtained faith” because of Christ’s grace and goodness. He is clearly speaking to believers (people of the Church). He specifically mentions their knowledge of God and Jesus.

2. According to verses 3-4, where do we get the power to live and obey God? How does God bestow this power upon us? What means does he use?

Peter says of God: “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence” (2 Peter 1:3, emphasis added). Through God’s own power, the Holy Spirit works upon us through the promise of Jesus, who is God’s Living Word (see John 1:1-2). Through hearing the Word of God, it is God’s own Spirit that inspires and empowers our faith and obedience to him.

3. Who is the Giver of faith? According to verse 5, what kind of things should this faith produce in us?

God is the Giver of faith, which produces in us the many virtues that Peter lists in verses 5-7 — virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, and brotherly affection. These are the same kinds of qualities that the Apostle Paul refers to in Galatians 5:22-23 as “the fruit of the Spirit.”

4. Verse 10 refers to “your calling and election.” Why is it important to know that you have been chosen by God? How does this help in times of struggle and doubt?

To be called and elected by God means that we did not choose him; he chose us! (See John 15:16.) So we know that our faith, hope and salvation rests in him, not in ourselves.

This means that even when we feel helpless and recognize that we are weak and finite, we can trust that God’s grace is sufficient for us (2 Corinthians 12:9). Our confidence is in Him!

5. In verses 12-15, for what reason does Peter say he wants to remind people about the promises of Jesus? What does he foresee will happen soon?

By the time of this writing, a number of years had passed since Jesus ascended into heaven.

Peter knew that many of the Apostles had died and were already gone, and that he himself would die soon. He wanted his message put down on paper so that people would have a written testimony of his witness and experience.

6. What does it mean to say that Peter was an “eyewitness” of Jesus’ majesty? What particular event does he refer to in verse 17-18? (Hint: See Mark 9:2-8.) How does Peter’s experience confirm his message about Jesus?

Peter was one of the disciples who was with Jesus throughout the Lord’s ministry on earth. We can read about these events in the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and see how Jesus fulfilled what was spoken by the prophets of the Old Testament. Peter was there.

In particular, Peter speaks of the Transfiguration of Jesus (Mark 9:2-8). This was the time when Peter (and James and John) saw Jesus on the mountaintop transform into his form in glory and heard the Father’s voice say, “This is my Beloved Son.”

7. In verses 19-21, how does Peter describe the Word of God? How is Peter’s message backed up by the rest of Scripture? Have you found that to be true in your own life?

Peter speaks of the Word of God as “a lamp shining in a dark place” (v. 19). This matches what is said in the Old Testament, in Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Peter affirms that “no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation” — that is, the words of the Bible are not just made-up stories or human opinion. “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” This means that the Spirit of God at work in the New Testament is the same Spirit who spoke in the Old Testament. The more one learns about the Bible and how the stories connect together and complement each other, the more a person realizes that there is a single over-arching story that points to Jesus.

8. Read Acts 10:38-43. In these verses, Peter speaks of his first-hand experience in being with Jesus. How are Peter’s words here similar to what we confess to believe in the Creeds?

In these verses, Peter briefly summarizes the things that happened in Jesus’ life, focusing on how it all led up to Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Creeds do the same thing, summarizing the story of Jesus’ life, suffering, death and resurrection for our sake.

Classroom Craft and Activity Page

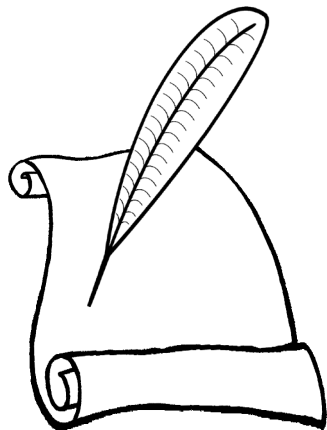
Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: Quill Pen and Ink Activity

For all children

Materials Needed:

- Large feathers (available at most large craft stores)
- Scissors
- Copy paper
- Nontoxic acrylic craft paint
- Paper plates
- Paper towels



Instructions:

Give each kid a large feather (these can be found at most big craft stores) and a pair of scissors. Demonstrate how to cut the tip of the feather off at a sharp angle, making a writing point. Then, invite kids to do that with their own feather.

Next, hand out copy paper, paper towels, and paper plates. Squeeze a little bit of paint onto each child's paper plate. You may want to give each person about three colors to use.

Invite kids to dip the tip of their feather "quill pen" into the colored "ink."

Explain that to write with this, they will need to be somewhat gentle on the paper. Let kids practice writing different letters on their sheet of paper. They can wipe off excess paint on the paper towel before changing colors.

Next, give kids a second piece of paper. On this sheet, kids will write an encouraging message of faith. It can be as simple as "Jesus loves you" or a more complete Bible verse, depending on their age and skill with the quill. Younger kids can simply write "Jesus" or draw a cross and other Christian symbols on their paper. Let the paint dry and roll up the paper like a scroll.

In ancient times, people wrote with quills made from feathers or similar supplies. They did not have ink-loaded pens as we do today. Imagine Peter writing his message this way. How challenging it would have been to write an entire letter with wet, drippy ink! Yet what Peter had to say was important, so nothing was going to stop him. We can be grateful today to have his words in the Bible, ready to read anytime, as a lamp to light our way.

Activity 2: Capture the Light Game

For all children

Materials Needed:

- Large area to play a game
- Masking tape
- Two flashlights or battery-operated candles



Instructions:

Before playing this game: Use masking tape to divide the room in half. Put a flashlight or battery operated candle at each end of the room. The area around each light is a team fortress.

The object of the game is for a team to protect their own light while also trying to capture the other team's light.

When it's time to play:

- Divide the class into two teams. Assign each team a light and fortress to protect.
- Explain that when you say, "Go," members of both teams will attempt to cross the dividing line in order to grab the other team's light.
- When a person crosses the line, they are in "enemy territory." Members of the other team can then tag them and send them to their fortress to be in jail.
- The only way for a player to be released from the opposing team's jail is for someone from your own team to cross the dividing line, get to the jail, and tag you.
- Teams can use all sorts of strategies to get each other's light (some kids can focus on getting the light while others focus on tagging, etc.).
- Whichever team grabs the other team's light and makes it back to their home area safely wins the game.

We should do all we can to protect God's Word, which serves as a light in the darkness. But unlike in this game, we don't need to hoard or protect it. It is a free gift to all who want it!

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

Top Four Pictures:

- 1) Jesus fishing with his disciples.
- 2) Jesus walking on water, saving Peter from drowning.
- 3) Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey (Palm Sunday).
- 4) Jesus' death on the cross.

Bottom Three Pictures:

- 1) Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.
- 2) John baptizing Jesus in the River Jordan.
- 3) The risen Jesus encountering Mary at the empty tomb.

Map Answer Key



Romans lived in Rome
 Corinthians lived in Corinth
 Ephesians lived in Ephesus
 Colossians lived in Colossae
 Thessalonians lived in Thessalonica
 Philippians lived in Philippi
 Galatians lived in Galatia

Reflection for the Week Ahead

In his letter, Peter talked about the importance of leading a godly life. "On to your faith, add virtue, and knowledge, and self-control, and perseverance, and godliness, and brotherly kindness, and love," Peter said.

Yet how do we do this? What can show us the way?

The Bible! God's Word is like a lamp that lights our path, even when things around us seem dark and murky.

There are teachings and examples in the Bible that can guide and inspire us. At church, we can hear God's Word read and preached and explained during worship and in classes. At home, we can study it further.

Our Bibles are a precious treasure; may we never take them for granted.

Talk to one another about these questions:

Peter wrote his letter so we could remember his words and teachings even after he was gone.

If you wanted people to remember one important lesson you learned in your life, what would it be?

What is your favorite Bible story? Why? What did it teach you?

The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, give thanks to God for the freedom we enjoy in Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to share the love and gift of freedom with others.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.

A: _____

D: _____

T: _____

R: _____

C: _____