

LESSON 73

Born Again!

1 PETER 1:1-12



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD PLANNED TO SAVE HIS CHILDREN THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 Peter 1:1–12 from the Scriptures or read story 151, “Born Again!” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Training Wheels and Flight Simulators

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ optional: a bike with training wheels to make a bigger impact with this illustration

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

The Prophets Searched Intently

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a dozen three-by-five cards with “Jesus” printed on them in bold letters

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 73—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Refined by Trials

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two adults to share their testimonies

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God’s people have been chosen—Peter opens his first letter with a blessing to the Gentile believers scattered throughout Asia and the surrounding lands. In the first two verses he summarizes the letter. God’s people are not primarily identified by nationality or by their works. They are chosen people, “elect...according to the foreknowledge of God” (1 Peter 1:1–2). From eternity past, God knew his people and the specific saving work through which he would save them. There is no way Peter could know this apart from God revealing it to him. God’s choice of his family was not based on a future view of their good works. He chose his own “according to his great mercy” (1 Peter 1:3). That tells us that the Gentiles were a part of God’s plan all along. All of God’s people, whether Jews like Peter or Gentiles like Cornelius, were known to him from eternity past.

God’s people have been born again—Peter is writing to Christians who will soon suffer persecution under Nero of Rome. To encourage them, Peter reminds them that their salvation is in Jesus Christ, who gave them new birth through his death (the sprinkling of blood) and resurrection (1 Peter 1:2–3). Peter then reminds them of their inheritance in Christ, which can never be lost (1 Peter 1:4). No matter what earthly trials we endure, we have the hope of heaven with Christ. An inheritance that will never spoil or fade awaits us.

God’s people are refined through trials—Peter uses the example of gold being refined as an illustration of what God does in the lives of believers (1 Peter 1:7). When gold ore is mined, it contains other minerals and impurities. When the ore is melted, the impurities are separated from the gold and can be skimmed off the surface of the molten metal as dross. God allows all kinds of trials to expose our weaknesses and idolatries so that we might repent and grow in our faith (see James 1:2–4). The good news is that these trials will all go away. Peter tells us we have them “now for a little while” (1 Peter 1:6), but that one day, when we go to be with the Lord in heaven, our trials will be replaced with eternal joy as we praise and honor our Lord.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Peter gives us a glimpse into the Old Testament prophets and their lives. In 1 Peter 1:10–12 he writes that the prophets had a sense that the things they were writing were not for themselves but for a future generation. As a result they searched intently into the words they proclaimed. They knew salvation was hidden in God's prophetic words. Imagine Isaiah when God gave him the fifty-third chapter of his book. Isaiah knew those words did not concern the immediate situation in Israel, and he longed to understand just how God would bring salvation.

Even the angels long to look into the mystery of God's plan revealed. The amazing thing is that we know—and can believe. That plan, that mystery, is the gospel!

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 Peter 1:1–12 from the Scriptures or read story 151, "Born Again!" from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Training Wheels and Flight Simulators

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ optional: a bike with training wheels to make a bigger impact with this illustration

Use the following two illustrations to help your children understand and appreciate longing for heaven in the midst of current trials.

Training wheels: Think of children riding bikes with training wheels. They enjoy riding, but they long for the day when the training wheels will be taken off and they can ride wherever they want to go. They endure the hardship that comes with learning to ride, the falls and the scrapes, but they long for the day when there will be no more falls. That is how we should see our lives here. Ask your class which is more fun: riding a bike with training wheels or riding a bike free of them.

Flight simulator: When astronauts train, they don't train first on real spaceships. They are shielded from danger by practicing inside a simulator. This is a machine that makes it feel like they are flying without actually flying; it is pretend. That way if they crash, they don't get hurt. Although flying to outer space in a simulator is fun, it is nothing like actually going into space. Astronauts endure the long hours and training looking forward to the day when they will actually be able to float in space. Ask your class which one they think is more exciting: flying in a flight simulator or flying an actual spaceship or jet.

We long for heaven in the same way. Here on earth we are being trained by our trials until the day we will be with Christ. We know Christ in part, in heaven we will see him face to face.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 15 MIN

The Prophets Searched Intently

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a dozen three-by-five cards with “Jesus” printed on them in bold letters

Before class, hide the cards around the room.

Read 1 Peter 1:10–12 and talk about how God gave the prophets a glimpse of the future salvation he was going to bring. Then read Psalm 22:16–18 and Isaiah 53:3–5 as examples. Then tell them that you have hidden a dozen three-by-five cards with the answer the prophets were searching for written on each card. Tell the class to search for the cards. Once all the cards have been found, reread the passages and ask the children if they can see how these prophecies point to Jesus.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 73—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What is the child in the picture doing?**
(The child is praying.)
- **Can the child see Jesus while he prays?**
(No, the child cannot see Jesus.)
- **How do we know that Jesus is really in heaven if we cannot see him?**
(The Bible tells us that Jesus is in heaven and we believe by faith in what the Bible says. Faith is a gift that God gives us. God places his Spirit in the hearts of those he saves so that they can believe with confidence that what the Bible says is true.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Refined by Trials

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two adults to share their testimonies

Think of a couple of people in your church who endured a trial that you know helped them to trust Jesus. It could be a person who went through a sickness and was healed or had to go

through a long season without work. Have them talk about how the trial helped them learn to trust God instead of themselves. Have your volunteers read through 1 Peter 1:1–12 to familiarize themselves with Peter’s “refining gold” example. Ask them to compare their trial to that image. Ask them to consider kinds of sin God was trying to remove from their lives. (Have them consider the sins of unbelief and self-sufficiency.)

Have them share their stories in class and then invite the children to ask questions. If your students can’t come up with questions, prompt them with one of the following:

- What advice can you give to help us when we go through trials ourselves?
- Are there any Bible verses that helped you through your trial?
- Did praying help you when you were struggling?

LESSON 73 - BORN AGAIN!

