

1 & 2 PETER & JUDE

Date: 11.02.25 | 1 & 2 Peter and Jude
Scripture: 1 & 2 Peter and Jude

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Jesus sits at God's right hand and continually prays for us. Jesus will one day return to exercise His reign over creation.
- Jesus is the only way people can connect with God
- People cannot save themselves, and Jesus is the only way to be reconciled with God.

HIGH SCHOOL:

- Jesus sits at God's right hand and continually intercedes for believers as our advocate, mediator, and High Priest. Jesus will one day return to exercise His reign over creation, and He will make all things new.
- Because no sin can enter God's presence and because Jesus is holy, He is the only way people can connect with God.
- No amount of good works can save a person, and Jesus' paying the penalty for our sin is the only way to be reconciled to God.



MEMORY VERSE

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23

H 10:23 - L u h f t c o o h w w, f h w p i f. - use this first letter memorization tool that aids in remembering text by using the first letter of each word as a clue.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Stay Steady Challenge

How it works:

1. Have everyone balance on one foot while you lightly bump their shoulders or distract them with questions.
2. See who can “stay steady” the longest.
3. Debrief: Peter and Jude encouraged believers to stand firm even when the world, lies, and trials try to knock them off balance.

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

The early church often faced two significant challenges: persecution from the outside and false teaching from within. The letters of *1 and 2 Peter and Jude* were written to strengthen believers against both false teachers and false teachings. First Peter encourages Christians to endure suffering faithfully, while Second Peter and Jude provide wisdom for recognizing and resisting false teaching that threatens the truth of the gospel.

Both letters of Peter claim authorship by Peter, the fisherman-turned-apostle of Jesus Christ (*1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1*). Peter first confessed Jesus as the Messiah at Caesarea Philippi, yet failed to fully grasp the meaning of his confession (*Matthew 16:16-23*). On the night before the crucifixion, he denied knowing Jesus three times (*Luke 22:54-62*). But after the resurrection, Jesus lovingly restored him (*John 21:15-19*) and commissioned him to feed His sheep. Empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter became a bold leader in the early church (*Acts 2-8*), proclaiming salvation through Christ alone. Though he once wavered in fear, Peter’s story is a powerful testimony of grace—how Jesus transforms failure into faithfulness.

Peter’s original name was Simon, son of John (*Matthew 16:17*). He grew up in Bethsaida. He later settled in Capernaum, where he worked as a fisherman alongside his brother Andrew, who first introduced him to Jesus (*John 1:40–42*). Jesus gave him the name Peter, meaning “rock.” Peter witnessed the Lord’s glory at the Transfiguration (*Matthew 17:1-8*) and became one of His closest friends. After Jesus’ ascension, Peter’s ministry expanded beyond the Jews to include Gentiles (*Acts 10*), and he took part in the Jerusalem Council around AD 50 (*Acts 15*). According to early Christian tradition, Peter was martyred in Rome under Emperor Nero around AD 66.

Peter likely wrote his first letter from Rome (called “Babylon” in *1 Peter 5:13*) around AD 63–64, near the time Nero began persecuting Christians. His audience included believers scattered throughout Asia Minor (*1 Peter 1:1*) who were facing hostility because of their faith (*1 Peter 2:19-21; 3:14, 17; 4:12-16; 5:9-10*). Many had once lived in pagan idolatry (*4:3-5*) and ignorance (1:14), but through the gospel, they had been born again into a living hope through

the resurrection of Jesus Christ (*1 Peter 1:3*).

The central message of 1 Peter is that God's grace gives believers strength to stand firm in the midst of suffering (*1 Peter 5:12*). Peter praises God for the gift of salvation and urges Christians to live holy lives as God's chosen people and His spiritual house (*2:9-10; 2:5*). Because they belong to Christ, they should reflect His character, doing good even when wronged (*2:21-23; 3:15-17*). Their patient endurance in suffering becomes a testimony of the gospel's power and points unbelievers to the hope found in Christ.

Peter reminds his readers to lift their eyes beyond temporary trials and focus on the imperishable inheritance waiting for them in heaven—one that “can never perish, spoil, or fade” (*1 Peter 1:4*). In a hostile world, they are Christ's ambassadors, called to live in such a way that the grace and truth of Jesus shine through them.

Shortly before his martyrdom, Peter wrote a second letter, known as 2 Peter, around AD 66–68. Whereas 1 Peter deals with persecution from outside the church, 2 Peter addresses corruption from within the church. False teachers were infiltrating the church, denying the power of God's Word and rejecting the promise of Christ's return (*2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:3-4*). Peter was aware of the dangers of such teaching and urged believers to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (*2 Peter 3:18*). The best defense against error is a deep, increasing knowledge of the truth.

Peter's purpose was twofold: to warn against false teachers and to encourage believers to mature spiritually. He described the false teachers' arrogance, greed, and immorality (*2 Peter 2:10-22*) and reminded the church that the Lord's second coming is inevitable—it will bring judgment on the wicked and deliverance for the righteous (*3:9-14*). This promise serves as the believer's motivation for holy living. Peter urged his readers to build on their faith by adding virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love (*2 Peter 1:5-7*). This growth enables believers to be effective and fruitful in their knowledge of Christ (*1:8*) and strengthens their assurance of salvation. Proper knowledge of God is not merely intellectual—it transforms conduct and fuels hope.

Peter also provided practical tests for recognizing false teachers, as outlined in the test of character (*2 Peter 2:10-14*): Do they exhibit the fruit of the Spirit? (*Galatians 5:22-23*); the test of creed (*2 Peter 2:17-18*): What do they teach about Jesus and the narrow way of salvation? (*Matthew 7:13-14*); and the test of converts (*2 Peter 2:19-22*): What kind of disciples do they produce—humble and holy, or prideful and self-indulgent? True teachers point people to Christ and produce godly fruit; false teachers, on the other hand, distort the gospel and lead others into spiritual ruin.

The short letter of Jude echoes many of the same concerns as 2 Peter. Jude identifies himself as “a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James” (*Jude 1*). Christian tradition recognizes him as one of Jesus' half-brothers (*Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3*). Writing to believers threatened by deceptive leaders, Jude calls them to “contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people” (*Jude 3*). Like Peter, he warns of those who twist God's grace into license for sin and deny Jesus as Lord (*Jude 4*). His closing encouragement is to

keep themselves in God's love, build themselves up in faith, and wait for the mercy of Christ that brings eternal life ([Jude 20-21](#)).

Throughout both of Peter's letters—and Jude's—runs the same gospel heartbeat: salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection secure eternal hope. God calls His people not only to believe the gospel but to live it out—to endure suffering with steadfast faith, to grow in godliness, and to guard the truth against distortion. Peter, once a faltering disciple, became a faithful shepherd because of the transforming grace of Christ. His letters remind believers that this same grace enables us to stand firm, grow strong, and proclaim the living hope of the gospel until the day Jesus returns in glory.

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



TELL THE STORY - 1 & 2 PETER and JUDE

The early church had a tough time. People outside the church often made fun of Christians or even hurt them for believing in Jesus. Inside the church, false teachers were spreading wrong ideas about God. The letters of [1 Peter](#), [2 Peter](#), and [Jude](#) were written to help believers face both of those problems. First Peter teaches believers how to stay strong and faithful when they suffer for following Jesus. Second Peter and Jude warn against false teachers who try to twist God's truth. Together, these letters remind us that God gives His people everything they need to live for Him and stand firm in faith.

Both [1 and 2 Peter](#) were written by Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples ([1 Peter 1:1](#); [2 Peter 1:1](#)). Peter was a fisherman before he met Jesus. His brother Andrew was the one who first introduced him to Jesus ([John 1:40-42](#)). Jesus gave him the name Peter, which means "rock," because Peter would become a strong leader in the early church. At first, Peter didn't always get things right. When Jesus was arrested, Peter denied knowing Him three times ([Luke 22:54-62](#)). But after Jesus rose from the dead, He forgave Peter and restored him ([John 21:15-19](#)). God used Peter in amazing ways—he preached boldly, helped lead the church, and even performed miracles through God's power ([Acts 2-8](#)). Peter saw Jesus' glory at the Transfiguration ([Matthew 17:1-8](#)), helped spread the gospel to non-Jewish people ([Acts 10](#)), and spoke at the Jerusalem Council ([Acts 15](#)). Later, Peter was arrested and, according to Christian history, was killed in Rome around AD 66 during the reign of Emperor Nero because he would not stop preaching about Jesus.

Peter probably wrote [1 Peter](#) from Rome around AD 63–64 ([1 Peter 5:13](#)). The believers he wrote to lived in various places throughout Asia Minor ([1 Peter 1:1](#)). Many of them were being mistreated because they followed Jesus ([1 Peter 2:19-21](#); [3:14](#), [17](#); [4:12-16](#)). Some had once worshiped idols or lived in sin ([1 Peter 4:3–5](#)), but now they belonged to Christ. Peter wanted them to remember that their hope was alive because Jesus rose from the dead ([1 Peter 1:3](#)). He reminded them that God had given them an inheritance that would never "perish, spoil, or fade" ([1 Peter 1:4](#)). Even though life was hard, they could stand firm in God's grace and live holy lives that showed others who Jesus is ([1 Peter 5:12](#)). Peter called them God's chosen

people and a spiritual house built to glorify Him ([1 Peter 2:5, 9-10](#)). He told them to do good even when others treated them badly ([1 Peter 2:21-23](#)) and to always be ready to tell others about the hope they had in Christ ([1 Peter 3:15](#)). Peter wanted Christians to keep their eyes on eternity—on the forever home waiting for them in heaven—instead of getting discouraged by their temporary troubles. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us strength to live with courage and kindness, even when life is hard.

A few years later, around AD 66–68, Peter wrote [2 Peter](#) shortly before he died. In this letter, Peter warned believers about false teachers who were spreading lies about God’s Word and denying that Jesus would return ([2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:3-4](#)). Peter wanted Christians to be strong in the truth so they wouldn’t be fooled. He told them to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ([2 Peter 3:18](#)). The best way to guard against false teaching is to really know God’s truth. Peter reminded them that Jesus is indeed coming back, and this promise should motivate them to live holy lives ([2 Peter 3:9-13](#)). He listed seven qualities that should grow in every believer’s life: faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love ([2 Peter 1:5-7](#)). These things show that we genuinely know Jesus ([2 Peter 1:8](#)). Peter also gave three ways to recognize false teachers: the test of character ([2 Peter 2:10-14](#)) which asks if they show the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)), the test of belief ([2 Peter 2:17-18](#)) which asks what they say about Jesus and salvation ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)), and the test of followers ([2 Peter 2:19-22](#)) which looks at what kind of people follow them and whether they are becoming more like Jesus or more like the world. True teachers point people to Jesus and help them grow in faith and holiness. False teachers lead people away from God’s truth. Peter wanted believers to be wise and stay grounded in the Word of God.

The short letter of [Jude](#) teaches many of the same things as 2 Peter. Jude called himself a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James ([Jude 1](#)). The Bible states that Jude was one of Jesus’ half-brothers ([Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3](#)). Jude warned believers to be vigilant against those who sought to distort the truth about God. He said, “Contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people” ([Jude 3](#)). He told believers to stand up for what’s true, stay close to God, and wait for Jesus to come back ([Jude 20-21](#)).

In all three of these letters, the message is the same: God’s grace saves us and helps us live for Him. Salvation isn’t something we earn—it’s a gift that comes through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Because Jesus forgave Peter and changed his life, Peter wanted others to know that same grace. Peter’s life reminds us that even when we fail, Jesus can forgive, restore, and use us to do great things for His glory. God calls His people to believe the gospel, live by it, and share it with others. Through His Word and His Spirit, He gives us the power to stand firm, grow strong, and live with hope until the day Jesus returns.



RETELL THE STORY

Have students re-tell the story as best they can.



SHARE THE GOSPEL

According to some people who teach what's called the "health and wealth" gospel, following God means He'll make you rich, healthy, and always happy. But that's not what the Bible says. When you follow Jesus, you follow the One the world rejected. You belong to God now—you are His child, and every spiritual blessing in heaven is yours through Christ—but life on earth will not always be easy. The Christian life is a spiritual battle, and we live on a spiritual battlefield.

When you gave your life to Jesus, you left the kingdom of darkness and joined the kingdom of light. That means the enemy wants to stop you from growing in faith or trusting God. Jesus Himself warned His disciples that the world would hate them because it hated Him first (*John 15:18-21*). But even when we face trials, persecution, or pain, we can stand firm knowing that God is sovereign—He is in control—and He will use everything for our good and His glory.

When we suffer, God never wastes it. Jesus suffered and died on the cross, and through His suffering came the greatest good of all time—our salvation. Because of Jesus, suffering no longer has the final word. Every hardship we face becomes a chance to show the world how good and strong our Savior is. Peter reminded believers that if we suffer for being Christians, we shouldn't be ashamed but should glorify God in it (*1 Peter 4:16*).

The gospel gives us this incredible hope: God not only saves us, He keeps us. No matter how hard life gets, nothing can separate us from His love. We can trust Him to hold us steady until the end. In the end, Jesus wins—and all who belong to Him will share in His victory forever, free from pain, fear, and sorrow. The question for each believer is simple: Will you trust the God who keeps you, even when life gets hard?

QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

1. Who wrote the letters of 1 and 2 Peter? (*1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1*)
2. What did Peter do on the night before Jesus was crucified? (*Luke 22:54-62*)
3. How did Jesus show Peter grace after His resurrection? (*John 21:15-19*)
4. What did Peter want believers to remember when they were suffering? (*1 Peter 1:3-4*)
5. According to *1 Peter 2:9*, who are believers in God's eyes? (*1 Peter 2:9*)
6. What did Peter warn about in his second letter? (*2 Peter 2:1-3*)
7. What does Peter say believers should grow into to stay strong in faith? (*2 Peter 3:18*)
8. What did Jude tell believers to do when false teachers were spreading lies? (*Jude 3*)
9. When have you had to stand up for what is right or true, even when it was hard?
10. How does knowing that Jesus forgave Peter help you understand God's grace in your own life?
11. What are some ways you can grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus this week?
12. Peter said to rejoice when we suffer for doing good. How can you glorify God when life doesn't go the way you want?
13. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

14. What does the story teach me about myself?

15. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

16. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

17. How does this story help me live on mission?

PRAYER PROMPTS

Dear God, thank You for loving us and showing us grace through Jesus, as You did with Peter. Please help us stand firm in our faith and live in a way that points others to You. Help us grow in Your truth, trust You when life is hard, and remember that You are always with us. Amen.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves His children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time; He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps His promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

JUST - God is fair in all His actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of His children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

List taken from Jen Wilkin Bible studies



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is God inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

LOOK OUTWARD



- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD



- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?