

Acts-Revelation

1st Peter

1st Peter 1-5

Younger Verse	God cares for you. 1st Peter 5:7 (CEV)
Older Verse	God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to him. 1st Peter 5:7 (CEV)
Welcome Time	Have you ever had something bad happen to you? Think now, and tell the truth; were you doing something wrong before that bad thing happened? That's how it is most of the time. Let's listen to the story to see what the Bible has to say . . .
Bible Story	<i>The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. Please do NOT read to the children. Instead, study your Bible, using this summary as a guide, and make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you want to ask.</i>

Today we are talking about another letter that was written and which is part of the Bible. This letter was written by Peter and it was his first letter.

Peter was one of the twelve men that spent time with Jesus when He was alive. Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends. Yet Peter was also the one who, when Jesus was on trial, said he was not one of Jesus' friends. But Jesus gave Peter a second chance and Peter preached to a lot of people before he died. He told them about Jesus and that they should follow Him, too. When he wrote his first letter, the mean emperor Nero (*knee-row*) was ruling the Roman Empire. Nero was an awful man who did awful things. Instead of getting in trouble for something he did, he blamed the Christians! The Christians living then, those who believed in Jesus and followed Him, hadn't caused any trouble, but some people didn't like them because of that, that they didn't do bad things.

Well, Peter saw this happening and wrote his letter to the Christians scattered all over the Roman Empire. Peter wanted the believers to know how to act when this happened to them. Peter reminded them of the gift Jesus had given them, that one day, they would go to heaven to be with Him. Peter also told the believers that when they were tested by hard things, it should only make them more like Jesus - it shouldn't make them want to run away from Him. Peter even said that, just like a baby really wants milk to drink, we should want to read the Bible just that much. Peter also said that we should have excellent behavior and that we should even obey the laws of our country! He sums it all up by saying "Show respect for everyone. Love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God. Show respect for the king."

If you show respect for everyone, does that mean there is anyone who is unimportant? No. You are to love your Christian brothers and sisters, those who love and follow Jesus like you do. But what does it mean to "fear God?" Fearing God doesn't mean that we are terrified of Him and want to run away, instead it means that we respect Him and realize He's a big God and we are just

little people. We should also show respect for the king. What king? Do we have a king here in the United States? No, but we do have a president and we should show respect for him if we want to please God.

Guess what Peter told those believers! He said that it was better to suffer for doing what is right than to suffer because we've done something wrong. You know, sometimes bad things happen to us. Should we just run away from them. Not always! Should we complain? NO! We should do what our Bible verse says and turn our worries over to God, because He cares for us. Does that mean that He will always take away what makes us sad or hurts us? No, it doesn't. And that is hard to understand, but you know what?! When those things do happen, and when they don't go away, we can remember the lesson that Jesus taught us.

Jesus came here to earth to have something bad happen to Him. What was it that happened to Jesus? Yes, he was crucified on the cross, nailed there to die for you and me. Was He crucified because He had done something wrong? No, He was crucified because He did it ALL right - He lived the perfect life, completely obedient to God and God was so pleased with Him that He was the only one who could have died for us and taken our sins away.

It sounds like it doesn't make sense, huh?! Well, sometimes what God knows it best doesn't always look like the right thing to us, but we can always trust God to help us know how to live! Have you ever trusted God with your life, telling Him you want to accept the gift of Jesus and that you want to follow Him for the rest of your life? If not, please talk to me today.

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Play "Red Light, Green Light" to practice this weeks memory verse. Remind your students that Peter tells us in the Bible that we are to obey the law. Play this game having your students say the verse before they can win! Instructions follow on the Activities Page.

Prayer Time

Pray that your students will want to be like Jesus and that they would rather be obedient than disobedient.

Clean Up/Snack time

Continue to encourage your students to always do the right thing. Make sure their trash makes it to the trash can. Have them continue with the chores they signed up for several weeks ago. Encourage them in their obedience.

Planning for November 28
2nd Peter

Preschool Lesson for 1st Peter 1-5

God Cares for You

Who cares for you?

Mom and Dad, grandma, your Bible Study leader (let your preschoolers answer). . .

How do you know they care for you?

Again, let your preschoolers answer. Do they cook food for you, help you do your homework, make sure you have clean clothes to wear . . .

Do you know that God cares for you? Well, He does!

How do we know He cares for us? Because the Bible tells us so - in our memory verse this week. Our verse says, "God cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7. We also know from Psalm 24:1 that "The earth and **everything** on it belong to the LORD. The world and its people belong to him."

So, when we have food to eat, even if mom and dad worked to buy it and then cook it, who does it really come from? GOD! And when we have shoes and sock to put on our feet and clothes to wear, where do these things come from? GOD! What about the schools we go to? They are from God, too. And our churches? GOD!

So, who should we say "thank you" to? We should tell God thank you for all the wonderful things we have. They all come from Him because He cares for you!

Stop and say thank you to God.

Activities for 1st Peter 1-5

- Make Roman coins.

These coins were originally minted to pay Roman soldiers and usually had the emperor's face on one side. On manila paper or typing paper have your students trace two circles, one for each side of the coin. Have them create their own coins featuring their own portrait.

- Using an outline map of the Roman Empire, have your students locate and color the cities Peter mentioned in 1 Peter 1:1 (Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia). This is a good way to show your students how the Bible is historical.

- Play **Red Light, Green Light**

In this game, one person plays the “stop light” and the rest try to reach the “stop light” first and say their memory verse. To begin, all students form a line about 15 feet away from the “stop light.” The “stop light” faces away from the line of students and says “green light.” At this point the students are allowed to move. They must stop when the “stop light” says “red light” and turns around. Anyone who is caught moving is out until the next game. When the “stop light” turns back around and says “green light” the students may continue moving. The winner is the first to reach the “stop light” and say this weeks memory verse.

- Prepare a bag for your Bible Study and label it in big letters—GOD. Also provide paper and pencils for each of your students. During Bible Study, after the Bible lesson, ask your students if they ever worry about things. Then ask them if they are ready to trust God instead. Have them write their worries on the paper provided. Then have them fold them, crumple them, etc. and throw their worries into the “God” bag. Close the time with prayer, giving them time to pray silently and then closing with a prayer that your students will leave their worries with God and trust Him, because He cares for them.
- There are several Old Testament passages in the book of 1st Peter. Provide color pages for those, if available to you.

Isaiah 40:8, Psalm 34:13, Leviticus 11:44
