

Acts-Revelation

2nd Peter

2nd Peter 1-3

Younger Verse

Be on your guard. 2 Peter 3:17

Older Verse

Be on your guard. Then you won't be led down the wrong path by the mistakes of people who don't obey the law. 2 Peter 3:17

Welcome Time

If you knew something bad was going to happen, would you try to prepare for it or would you just keep playing and living life as usual? Well, we are going to talk about some of those bad things in our lesson today and we are going to discuss what you can do to be prepared!

Bible Story

*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.*

Note to Teacher

Peter's death is predicted in 2nd Peter 1:13-15 as well as John 21:18-19. Peter was arrested and imprisoned under the rule of the notorious Roman Emperor Nero. Peter was crucified, but rather than be crucified like Jesus, he chose to be crucified upside down. It is important to mention at least briefly because it shows his urgency in writing so a second time.

Who remembers what book of the Bible we talked about last week? 1st Peter, that's right! And do you remember who the author, Peter, was? One of Jesus' twelve disciples, one of His friends. This next question is a little more difficult. Do you remember to whom Peter wrote his first letter? Well, he didn't write it to people who all lived in one place. He wrote it to believers scattered around the Roman Empire in places like Pontus, Galatia, Asia and others.

Well, not long after Peter wrote his first letter he wrote another letter to the same people, maybe even within the same year. Paul wrote them back quickly because he knew he wouldn't be alive much longer and he had some things he really wanted to say to these believers of Jesus before he went to heaven. He warned them to be on guard, careful, so they wouldn't "be led down the wrong path by the mistakes of people who don't obey the law" (3:17). Peter told them how to be on guard. Second Peter chapter three verse two says that "you should never forget what the holy prophets taught in the past." That means that you should remember what God's word, the Bible, says because those holy men long ago didn't just say and write what they wanted to, the spoke what God told them to (1:20-21).

Peter told the believers that people would come and try to teach them things that were wrong and try to convince them that God didn't really know what He was talking about (2:1-22, 3:3-7). That's why they really needed to be careful, and why we need to be careful, too. There are people now who are just like Peter described, people who want to do things that God says are wrong like hating authority. Who knows what authority is, or anyone who might be in authority? Authority is power and responsibility, and some of the people who are in authority over us are the president of our country, the governor of our state, the principal of our school, our teachers and parents . . . And we learned in Peter's first letter that we are to respect and obey these people because God has put them in charge over us (1 Peter 2:12-17).

How can you know whether or not someone is teaching you the right thing? Peter explains that "we have everything we need to live a life that pleases God. It was all

Lesson Goals

Stress the importance of being on guard against things that don't line up with Scripture.

given to us by God's own power, when we learned that He had invited us to share in His wonderful goodness (1:3). The first way to make sure we can tell right from wrong is to accept the invitation God gives us to be a part of His family. This invitation isn't just for a few people. Peter tells us that God wants everyone to turn from sin and come to Him (3:9). Once we do this, we can read the Bible with understanding to learn and obey what God tells us. We also need to learn Bible verses and "hide them in our hearts" because God tells us it will keep us from sinning (Psalm 119:11). Peter also tells us that we can keep from stumbling if we practice a few things (1:5-10). When you practice a sport or something like multiplication, do you learn it all at one time or do you learn a little at first and add to it the better you get? You learn a little at a time. Well, it's like that with these things we need to practice, that keep us from messing up in our life with God. First, we have to have faith. That's accepting that invitation God gives to believe that He sent His one and only Son to die for us and to follow Him in obedience.

So, what do we need to practice? Once we have faith, we work on goodness or excellence in how we act. Once we get good at that with God's help, we practice knowledge. Knowledge means getting to know things like why you believe in God and what He says about lots of different things. Once you get good at knowledge, you add self-control. Self-control means controlling yourself, like eating only 2 cookies instead of 20 or finishing your homework before you play Nintendo. Once you're self-controlled, you can practice perseverance, which means having the strength to keep going even when you don't feel like it. Once you're good at persevering, you need to work on godliness. What is godliness? It means to be like God! That's a pretty big task, huh? But we don't have to do it alone, God helps us to be more like Him. And once we are more and more like God, we can learn to be kind to our brothers - those who believe in God like we do. And when we get good at being kind, we can work on love. This is not love like we know it, loving someone when they make you happy and not loving them when they make you mad. And it's not like "loving" chocolate cake. This kind of love is a choice, not a feeling. It's the kind of love that God showed us when He sent His only Son to die for us! If you have never accepted God's invitation, come talk to me!

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Provide butcher paper, drawing paper or manila paper to your students. Have them write their verses at the bottom of the page (or do it for them before class). Then, have your students illustrate this week's verse.

Prayer Time

Pray, today, thanking God for His invitation to share in His goodness. Refrain from leading children in a group prayer to accept that invitation. Carefully observe your students for those who may be close to accepting Christ and pull them aside for individual attention as necessary.

Clean Up/Snack time

Talk with your students about how they can be on guard this week against people who don't obey the rules. Then, continue to work with them on their memory verse.

Planning for December 5th
1 John

Preschool Lesson for 2nd Peter

Obey the Rules

Teachers: Be ready with pictures of appropriate road signs, (i.e. STOP, DON'T WALK, etc.) to use during today's lesson. Also have a flashlight ready for later in the lesson.

Explain to your preschoolers that you are going to show them a few road signs, telling them that you want them to explain what they are for.

(Go through the signs you have prepared before class.)

Teach: Are the signs we looked at important? YES! Why are they important? They are important because they protect us. They protect us from harm. If you don't stop when you should a car coming your direction might not know you were still moving. It's the same if you walk when you shouldn't.

What about rules you might have at home or rules you have here at church? What could happen if you run when you should walk? You could fall and hurt yourself.

You know, God's rules are the same, but even more important! So when God says to pay attention to the Bible - is it important to listen to God's word and obey? YES! You know what?! The Bible tells us that paying attention to the Bible is as important as having light in a dark place (1:19). Can you do very much in a room that is very dark? (If possible, and if none of your children are terrified of the dark, put your class in a dark place and try to find the door. When it is evident how difficult this is, turn on a flashlight. As eyes become accustomed to the light, as preschoolers to try again and find the door - more easily this time.)

Encourage your preschoolers to "Obey the Rules" this week.

Activities for 2nd Peter

- Provide word searches and Bible verse coloring pages.
One idea for a word search would be to use the words from Chapter 1 verses 5-10 in the discussion of diligence; building on faith and adding goodness, etc.
- Remind your students of 2nd Peter 1:20-21. Use this time to practice the books of the Bible. Try playing hopscotch, practicing the books of the Bible when you pause to pick up the marker thrown at each square.
- Create an invitation according to 2nd Peter 1:3. Have them write their names on the space provided and talk with your students about accepting that invitation.

<p style="text-align: center;">_____ <i>(write your name here)</i> <i>is invited</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>to Share in the Wonderful Goodness of God</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>R.S.V.P</i> <i>(let God know if you accept His invitation)</i></p>
