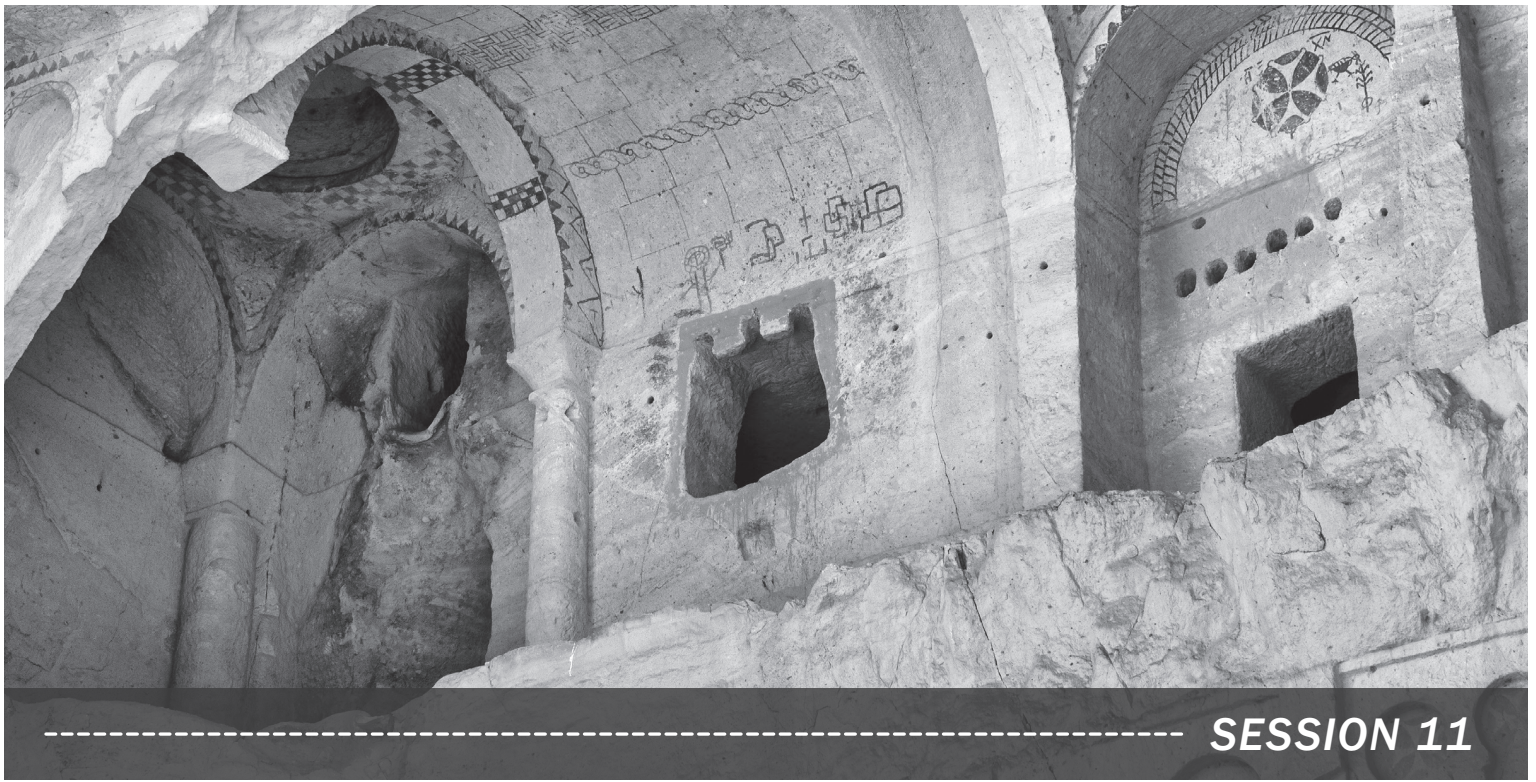




SESSION 11

THE BOOKS OF 1 & 2 PETER

FOR THE
LEADER

1 Peter 1–5; 2 Peter 1–3

Peter was one of Jesus' earliest disciples. Peter also enjoyed special time with Jesus as part of Jesus' inner circle of disciples, along with James and John. These three men were given additional instructions that they would need to be successful in what God had called them all to do. Peter's mission would take him through many difficult times, and Peter's reliance on the Lord was paramount to his honoring God in the things he was called to do.

Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends. Jesus told Peter that Peter would have a unique role among the other apostles, and Peter was all in on this mission. Following Jesus' ascension into heaven, Peter spoke to a crowd gathered at the festival of Pentecost, and 3,000 people became believers in Christ on that single day. From there, Peter's preaching continued.

After many years of faithful service to the Lord, Peter was in Rome, where he wrote some letters to the churches he had ministered to. Peter's life was an example to the believers on the ways we should live to honor God. Peter's letters were addressed to those who had been dispersed throughout the land because of the Roman persecutions and to those formerly known as Gentiles. Both of Peter's letters share a focus on hardships that Christians will endure.

Early Roman Christians were being persecuted harshly for their faith. Peter encouraged the Christians to continue living out their faith despite the persecutions because God would be honored in the Christians' lives as they did this. Peter also shared that persecution will lead to a deepening of faith! While faith is important, it is also important that believers grow in the fruit of the Spirit to supplement the faith they have. Peter encouraged righteous living as a way to combat the effects of the Roman persecutions. We should live in ways that honor God and let the Lord worry about the rest.

This week, hold onto this message of faithfulness in all our actions. As you guide boys and girls to hear the words Peter shared with the church, help them to see that we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God even during difficult times. Jesus showed people how they should live. Guide kids to follow Jesus' example throughout their week. Challenge yourself to live a life that honors God through your words and actions.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Peter 1–5; 2 Peter 1–3

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 4:16

BONUS VERSE: 1 Peter 1:15

TEXT TRUTH: During difficult times, we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Identify and apply biblical principles to personal and social issues. Know and recite all the books of the Bible in order in a limited time frame.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Jump In:** *Item 13: “Ancient Cappadocian Church” (Printables), “1 Peter” (Books of the Bible Posters), “2 Peter” (Books of the Bible Posters), Bible Timeline for Kids*
- ☐ **Examine the Text:** *Bibles, Item 9: “Text Truth 11” (Poster Pack), Item 11: “Christ in Context: 1 Peter” (Printables), Item 11: “Christ in Context: 2 Peter” (Printables)*
- ☐ **Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- ☐ **Memory Verse:** *Item 3: “1 Peter 4:16” (Poster Pack), Item 37: “Letter” (Printables), markers*
- ☐ **Prayer:** *Family Cards, dry erase board, dry erase marker*

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- ☐ **Review:** *Item 9: “Review Questions” (Printables), Item 9: “Text Truth 11” (Poster Pack), scissors, tape*

To order the *Explore the Bible: Books of the Bible Posters* (Print Item No. 005849118, Digital Item No. 005849119) and the *Bible Timeline for Kids* (Item No. 005811866), call Lifeway’s Customer Service at 1.800.458.2772 or order online at www.lifeway.com.

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Bible Skills:** *4 cones, 4 index cards, tape, markers, 2 beanbags, Bibles, “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters), dry erase board, dry erase marker*
- ☐ **Move:** *5 envelopes, markers, 3 hula hoops, balls, bucket, pool noodle, cone, Item 20: “Mailbox” (Poster Pack), timer, tape*
- ☐ **Make:** *Item 13: “Ancient Cappadocian Church” (Printables), paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, glue*
- ☐ **Explore:** *Item 21: “Bowman Family Photos” (Printables), paper, pens, dry erase board, dry erase marker*

Leaders, grow on the go! Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or visit goexplorethebible.com/kids-training.

THE BOOKS OF 1 & 2 PETER

1 Peter 1–5; 2 Peter 1–3

Peter was a disciple of Jesus. After Jesus was resurrected, He told Peter to care for Jesus' followers. Peter wrote a letter to the believers who were scattered through the Roman provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. These believers were facing tough times because they believed in Jesus. Peter understood that these believers needed to be encouraged. Believers have an eternal life with God, so Peter reminded the people that their earthly trials would not last forever.

Peter wrote that the people should not return to their past actions. "Be holy," Peter said. "Remember you have been redeemed, not with silver or gold, but by Jesus, who was sacrificed like a lamb for your sin. Your faith and hope are in God. Obey God. Love one another. Remember that people and things fade away, but God's Word lasts forever."

Peter reminded the people that Jesus was rejected by men and sometimes Christians will be too.

Followers of Jesus are called to live their lives in a way that honors God. Peter said, "Be compassionate and humble. Don't pay back someone who does wrong to you. You must seek peace."

Peter told the believers, "Use the gift God has given you to serve others. Be humble. Trust God to care for you. Resist the enemy and be firm in your faith." Peter understood that a believer's actions should honor God. When a believer does what is right, God receives glory.

Later, when Peter was getting old, he wrote another letter to encourage the church to remember some important truths.

Peter wrote, "God has given you everything you need to grow in your faith—in your knowledge of Jesus. Add these things to your faith: goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love."

Peter also wrote to the people about God's Word. "Pay attention to God's Word. It is a lamp shining in a dark place until Jesus returns. No promise from Scripture was from a prophet's own ideas. Instead, men wrote God's Word just as the Holy Spirit told them to."

Next, Peter warned of false prophets. "They will teach dangerous lies about Jesus. They will cheat you because they are greedy. These are proud people who are not afraid to lie. They mislead those who are not continuing to learn about Jesus." Peter warned the church about these false prophets so the church would not be led away from the truth of Jesus.

Peter ended his letter with these words, "Dear friends, while you wait for Jesus, be on guard against false teachers. Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. Glory to God. Amen."

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The book of 1 Peter reminds believers that they will face difficult times because of their belief in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ suffered as the spotless lamb to pay the price for our sin. He was rejected by men, but has become the cornerstone on which believers have a firm foundation. The book of 1 Peter encourages believers to live godly lives and hope in the future coming of the eternal King.

The book of 2 Peter affirms that Jesus will come again. Jesus is God's Son whom Peter witnessed in His time on earth. Believers should pursue a God-honoring life, trusting God to provide everything they need, until Jesus returns.

TIP:

Check out Item 15: "Inclusion Resources" (Printables) to find a simplified Bible story for kids with short attention spans.

TOOLS:

- Jump In: Item 13: “Ancient Cappadocian Church” (Printables), “1 Peter” (Books of the Bible Posters), “2 Peter” (Books of the Bible Posters), *Bible Timeline for Kids*
- Examine the Text: Bibles, Item 9: “Text Truth 11” (Poster Pack), Item 11: “Christ in Context: 1 Peter” (Printables), Item 11: “Christ in Context: 2 Peter” (Printables)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 3: “1 Peter 4:16” (Poster Pack), Item 37: “Letter” (Printables), markers
- Prayer: Family Cards, dry erase board, dry erase marker

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Greet kids as they arrive.
- Say: “Today, we will be studying the books of 1 and 2 Peter.”
- Display the timeline. Point to Peter’s letters on the timeline.
- Display the “1 Peter” and “2 Peter” posters.
- Ask: “What books were written about the same time as 1 and 2 Peter?” (*Acts, Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy*) “When did the events of 1 Peter and 2 Peter take place?” (AD 60s) “Who wrote the text of 1 and 2 Peter?” (*Simon Peter, the apostle of Jesus*) “Where were these books written?” (*Rome*)
- Display “Ancient Cappadocian Church.”
- Say: “This ‘Ancient Cappadocian Church’ dates to the mid-11th century and is in Goreme, Turkey. Churches sometimes built meeting spaces in caves to hide from those who might hurt them. Today, we will read letters Peter wrote to believers who were going through difficult times.”

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Say: “Open your Bibles to 1 Peter and 2 Peter. These books are located in the New Testament. They belong to the letters genre.”
- Help kids find 1 Peter and 2 Peter.
- Display “Christ in Context: 1 Peter” and “Christ in Context: 2 Peter.”
- Ask volunteers to read “Christ in Context: 1 Peter” and the “Christ in Context: 2 Peter” aloud.
- Introduce the lesson by reading the first paragraph of the Bible story page.
- Ask a volunteer to read 1 Peter 1:16.
- Ask: “What does *holy* mean?” (*to be pure, without spot or blemish*) “How can we be holy?”
- Ask a second volunteer to read 1 Peter 1:24-25.
- Say: “In this passage of his letter, Peter copied Isaiah 40:8.”
- Encourage a third volunteer to find and read Isaiah 40:8 aloud.
- Ask: “How long does the word of the Lord remain or endure?” (*forever*)
- Ask a fourth volunteer to read 1 Peter 5:7.
- Ask: “What does it mean to cast your cares upon God?” (*to trust God with all of your cares by praying about them*) “Why should we cast our cares upon God?” (*because He cares about us*)
- Ask someone to read 2 Peter 1:5-7.
- Ask: “What character traits does Peter write about in these verses?” (*goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love*) “What do some of these traits look like in a believer’s life?”
- With your Bible open to 1 Peter, use the Bible story page and summarize the overview of 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

- Say: “Earlier, our ‘Christ in Context: 1 Peter’ reminded us that believers will face difficult times because of their belief in Jesus Christ.”
- Display the Text Truth.
- Read the Text Truth aloud: **During difficult times, we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God.**
- Discuss what it means to bring God glory.

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 11 video.
- Ask: “What new skill did Joel try to learn? Why did Joel have a tough time at first? How did Joel get better at mountain biking? How does God help us through tough times?”

MEMORY VERSE

- ☐ *Bible Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, 1 Peter 4:16. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bonus Verse. This week’s Bonus Verse is 1 Peter 1:15.*

- ☐ *Display “1 Peter 4:16.” Print one copy of “Letter” per kid.*

- Review the Memory Verse together as a group.
- Cover up the “1 Peter 4:16” poster and ask for volunteers to recite the Memory Verse.
- Give each kid one copy of “Letter” and distribute markers.
- Tell kids to read the Memory Verse. Ask kids to think about how they would explain this verse to a friend going through a hard time.
- Invite kids to write their explanations in a letter. Tell kids they do not have to write to someone they know.
- Encourage kids to keep this letter for themselves and to read it the next time they go through a difficult time.
- Uncover the poster and recite the verse as a group. Ask for volunteers to say the verse from memory.

PRAYER

- Distribute Family Cards. Encourage kids to review the questions at home with their families.
- Say: “Today we learned that **during difficult times, we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God.**”
- Ask: “What are some difficult times that people may face?”
- Encourage kids to pray silently for themselves or someone they know going through a difficult time. Close in prayer by thanking God for hearing these prayers.

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: Item 9: “Review Questions” (Printables), Item 9: “Text Truth 11” (Poster Pack), scissors, tape

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today’s pages.
- Ask a volunteer to read about today’s object, “Ancient Cappadocian Church.”
- Encourage kids to examine “Peter’s Timeline.”
- Help kids read through “Fading Fast.”
- Show kids how to complete “What’s the Story?”
- Invite kids to examine “What Would You Do?”

REVIEW

☐ *Print one copy of “Review Questions.” Cut apart the questions. Tape the questions under chairs in the room before kids arrive. Create more questions if your group has more than 10 kids.*

- Tell kids they have already chosen a question from today’s review.
- Call on a volunteer to find and read the question taped to the bottom of their chair.
- Continue until all questions have been found and answered correctly.
- Display the Text Truth.
- Encourage kids to read today’s Text Truth together: **During difficult times, we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God.**

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

BEANBAG BOOK SEARCH



Tools: 4 cones, 4 index cards, tape, markers, 2 beanbags, Bibles, "Bible Books" (Books of the Bible Posters), dry erase board, dry erase marker

- ☐ Write each one of the following Bible genres on separate index cards: Gospels, History, Letters, and Prophecy. Tape one card to each cone. Write on the dry erase board: Gospels - 10; Letters - 15; History - 25; Prophecy - 25. Write Group 1 and Group 2 on the board.
- Put kids into two groups. Give each group one beanbag and a Bible. Arrange the cones on the floor.
- Tell kids their goal is to find as many books for each New Testament genre as possible within the time limit.
- Instruct kids to look at the board to learn how many points books will be worth from each genre. Help kids understand the point values for each genre.
- Groups will let one kid toss a beanbag at a time. They can choose the genre. If the bag hits the cone, groups must use the Bible to find any book in that genre.
- When a kid finds a Bible book, they must show it to the leader. If they found a book that belongs to the genre on their cone, that group earns the corresponding number of points. The group with the most points wins. Use the "Bible Books" poster at the end to show kids where each book belongs.
- Say: "The Bible teaches that **during difficult times, we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God.**"

LETTER DELIVERY RELAY



Tools: 5 envelopes, markers, 3 hula hoops, balls, bucket, pool noodle, cone, Item 20: "Mailbox" (Poster Pack), tape, timer

- ☐ Write each location on separate envelopes: Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. If your group is larger than five kids, make several sets of envelopes.
- Set up the relay course. Put the cone on the floor as the starting line. Lay the pool noodle vertically in front of the cone. Put the three hoops beyond the pool noodle in a vertical line. Put one ball in the third hoop. Place the bucket 10 feet away from the hoop. Put the envelopes in the bucket.
- Ask kids to form a single file line behind the cone. Tape "Mailbox" to the wall behind the starting line. Lay a roll of tape under the poster on the floor.
- Direct kids in the relay course. First, kids will walk across the pool noodle like a balance beam. Next, they will hop through the hoops on one foot. They will toss the ball into the bucket. Once they toss the ball in, kids will choose one envelope, run it back, and tape it to the "Mailbox."
- Tell kids once an envelope is taped to the poster, the next kid can go.
- Demonstrate the relay for kids.
- Say "go" and time the group. Repeat the activity and challenge kids to achieve a faster time.
- Say: "The books of the Bible we studied today belong to the letter genre. When Peter wrote his letters, there were no post offices, stamps, or envelopes. People carried Peter's letters to these places. His letters encouraged people to trust God in tough times. **During difficult times, we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God.**"

CHURCH PORTRAITS



Tools: Item 13: “Ancient Cappadocian Church” (Printables), paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, glue

☐ Follow your church’s safety protocol for taking kids outside.

- Display “Ancient Cappadocian Church.”
- Ask: “How is this church building different than ours?”
- Say: “Today, we are going to create portraits of our church building.”
- Give kids supplies to draw a portrait.
- Take kids outside your church’s building.
- Tell kids they can sketch ideas outside and make their portraits indoors, or they can draw the entire portrait outside.
- Invite kids to gather unique nature items if possible (*leaves from unique trees on the church property, petals from bushes that line the church’s exterior*). Tell kids they can glue these nature items around their portraits.
- Say: “Today, we learned that **during difficult times, we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God.**”

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



Tools: Item 21: “Bowman Family Photos” (Printables), paper, pens, dry erase board, dry erase marker

- Show the photos.
- Say: “Valley Life Church believes they exist to help people know more about God and to start new churches. The church wants to attract people who do not currently attend a church. As Valley Life grows, they learn where the newest church members live. Then, they identify people from those neighborhoods who could help them start new churches.”
- Tell kids that Valley Life Church wants to start new churches in their region. They disciple and train every person who is interested in being church leaders so they can be ready to start new churches. Valley Life Church wants everyone to use their gifts to help more people know about Jesus.
- Point out that Valley Life Church has set goals for starting new churches. Distribute the paper and pens. Tell kids they are going to create a neighborhood map.
- On the dry erase board, show kids how to use square shapes and a cross shape to draw a simple church building. Encourage kids to draw a church building on their papers. Next, encourage kids to draw several houses near and around their church building. Tell kids they can add streets, trees, and other landmarks if they choose. Now, ask kids to find two places on their maps where they can add two new churches. Invite kids to draw arrows from each house to the closest church. Tell kids the more churches a neighborhood has, the easier it can be for new people to attend church and hear about Jesus.
- Pray, thanking God for Valley Life Church and leaders who are starting new churches to help more people know about Jesus.