

Unit 28 • Session 4 January 3, 2021

Living Like Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Peter 1

Story Point:

Peter instructed believers
to live like Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Peter 1:3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

Countdown

Introduce the session (2 min.)

Sing and give offering (3–12 min.)

Big picture question (1 min.)

Big picture answer (1 min.)

Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

Christ connection

Group demonstration (5 min.)

Review (4 min.)

Key passage (5 min.)

Group game (5–10 min.)

Missions moment (6 min.)

Announcements (2 min.)

Prayer (2 min.)

Additional idea

Teach the Story

Session Title: Living Like Jesus

Bible Passage: 2 Peter 1

Story Point: Peter instructed believers to live like Jesus.

Key Passage: 2 Peter 1:3

Big Picture Question: How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

Countdown

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

Sing and give offering (3–12 min.)

Let's sing together now.

Sing Opening Song "The Lion and the Lamb"

Sing Theme Song "This Is Where the Mission Begins,"

Sing Unit Song "All For Your Glory"

Sing Unit Song "Just as I am"

Introduce the session (2 min.)

[Samuels enters from working the overnight shift. He is tired.]

Richards • Hey Samuels, I heard your team went out on quite a few calls last night. A few of the new volunteers were with you. How was it?

Samuels • Yes, it was a long night! I'm beat! But you know, last night was something else! I'm so proud of my team. It was the first emergency call for the new volunteers. But I can tell their training is paying off!

Richards • That's great to hear. What do you think helped?

Richards • For one, they fell right in with the others. They followed my lead and listened to my instructions. They remembered exactly what they had been taught. In fact, there was one house fire that was pretty intense. A few of the newcomers looked worried.

Richards • Wow, what happened?

Samuels • I noticed how Tamera Johnson stepped up and watched me. She told the others to imitate me. And they did. They followed all my instructions. I could tell they were encouraged by following my lead.

Richards • That is amazing! A firefighter's first time out can be pretty nerve-racking. But having a good example to follow will get you through the worst. This is so similar to our Bible story this week. Peter wrote to the early Christians so they could remember what Jesus did. He told them to follow Jesus' example. His letter was such an encouragement as they faced difficulty.

Samuels • That's right! Jesus faced difficulty and His example taught His followers how to face difficulty, too. Talking about this has made me perk up a bit. I'm not so tired right now. I might be okay to go over the story before I head home. What do you say?

Richards • Sounds good to me!

Big picture question (1 min.)

Richards • First, let's remind everyone the big picture question and answer. *How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.* The Christian life is full of ups and downs. It can be lonely at times. God gives the Holy Spirit to remind Christians they are not alone.

Samuels • Because of the Holy Spirit, Christians can grow and become more like Jesus. He shows us our sin so we can confess it. We are able to learn what makes God happy. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to live for God.

Big picture answer (1 min.)

Richards • Jesus came to give us life. He brought light into darkness and showed us what God is like.

Jesus was born a human and grew to become a man. He died on the cross to rescue sinners.

Samuels • After Jesus rose from the dead, He promised His followers God would send them the Holy Spirit. God kept this promise so Jesus' disciples could begin sharing the gospel with the entire world.

Richards • The Holy Spirit gave Jesus' followers power. He gave Peter power to heal a man. Even the religious leaders couldn't stop Jesus' followers from sharing the gospel.

Samuels • Jesus' followers soon faced hardship. Peter wrote them an encouraging letter. He told them Jesus gives hope and true life so Christians can joyfully live for Him. He wanted them to remember to follow Jesus' example to endure hardship. We'll hear more about Peter's instructions to believers now.

Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

watch the Bible story video "Living Like Jesus."

Samuels • Have you ever heard someone say, "Do as I say, not as I do?" That's a way of telling a person to only listen to someone's words but not follow her actions. That's because the person is probably not setting the best example. However, that is the opposite of what Jesus did. He told His disciples to follow His example of faithfulness.

Richards • Jesus' followers experienced persecution because they shared the good news of the gospel. Peter wrote a letter to encourage them. He reminded them of Jesus' example. Peter said they had power from the Holy Spirit to hope in Jesus and live as servants of God.

Samuels • Peter's letter continues to comfort Christians today! There are still people who try to stop Christians from sharing the gospel. Christians all over the world face persecution. Believers can read God's Word and remember they can remain faithful no matter what.

Richards • In our some places, Christians don't often face physical harm or danger for believing in Jesus. But, even in places where it is legal to love Jesus, it is not always popular to live for Him. For those of us who believe in Jesus, we must remember that this world is not our home. We cannot live like people who do wrong. The Holy Spirit helps us do what is right and live as servants of God. When we live and love as Jesus, we show people who our heavenly Father is. This example can help people know God and have a relationship with Him, too!

Christ Connection

Tip: Consider using your Bible and the gospel poster provided to explain to kids how to become a Christian. Anytime you invite kids to respond in a large group setting, make sure you have counselors available to speak with kids individually to answer questions.

Richards • Jesus lived a perfect life and died the death we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and changes our hearts. Jesus calls and empowers His followers to live like Him.

Samuels • Believers can grow in looking more like Jesus because of His perfect example. Jesus did not sin or hate those who wronged Him. Instead, Jesus loved His enemies. He prayed for them. He forgave them.

Richards • It's not always easy to do this. When people hurt us, we might be tempted to hurt them back. But when someone trusts Jesus for salvation, God gives him a new heart. God gives believers the desire to please God. God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. Because the Holy Spirit is God, He gives Christians the power to change. Christians can now please God because He lives inside them.

Group demonstration (5 min.)

empty paper towel tube
book
paper

Stand the empty paper towel tube on a table. Slowly place the book onto the upturned end of the tube. Next, attempt to stand a piece of paper up and stack the books on it. This is impossible to do. Now, roll the piece of paper around the tube and tape it so it takes the shape of the tube. Carefully slide the tube from the paper. Finally, stand the rolled paper tube on the table top. Slowly stack the books again. They should hold up the same way they held under the paper towel tube.

Richards • Jesus stood in the face of many hardships. He told His followers they would experience hardships. The paper towel tube standing under the weight of these books represents Jesus enduring suffering. When Peter wrote to the Christians who were facing persecution, he wanted them to remember Jesus' example. They needed the Holy Spirit's help to endure. Without the Holy Spirit's help, they would have been like this piece of paper. By itself, it can't stand.

Samuels • When I wrapped the paper around the tube, it was made stronger. It could hold up under the weight of the book. This is like when the Holy Spirit strengthens believers. He lives inside of everyone who has trusted Jesus as Savior. Believers can endure any hardship!

Review (4 min.)

Richards • Let's review today's story.

Why did Peter write letters to Christians? (*As a reminder, 2 Peter 2:12-13*)

What did God give Christians? (*Everything required for life and godliness, 2 Peter 2:3*)

What did Peter tell Christians they should seek? (*goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, brotherly affection, and love, 2 Peter 1:5-7*)

Was Peter making up what he had seen? How do you know? (*No, he saw and heard it from God, 2 Peter 1:18*)

What does this story teach me about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or the gospel?

What does this story teach me about myself?

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

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

How does this story help me live on mission better?

Key passage (5 min.)

Richards • Peter's instructions to the Christians to live like Jesus were not impossible rules for them to follow. God sent the Holy Spirit to give believers power.

Samuels • The Holy Spirit's power makes it possible for Christians to follow Peter's instructions.

Richards • The Holy Spirit gives us everything we need to live like Jesus.

Read 2 Peter 1:3 Display the key passage poster for kids to read.

Sing "Life and Godliness (2 Peter 1:3)."

Display the key passage poster for kids to read.

Group game (5–10 min.)

ball

B-e-l-i-e-v-e

Form teams of seven kids. Direct the kids to stand in a line with space between each person to attempt seven successful catches. With each toss, children must say a letter from the word *believe*. If there are fewer than seven children on a team, the first child in that group will run past her teammates to reposition herself in the line to continue the tosses. Repeat this with as many players as necessary until the word is spelled. If the ball is dropped, the team must start over from the beginning. The first team to spell "believe" without any drops wins. Play as many rounds as time allows

Samuels • Peter wrote his letter to believers. When a person chooses to trust in Jesus Christ to rescue him from sin, he is called a believer. The believers Peter wrote to were enduring suffering because of their belief in Jesus. As you play this game, remember there are believers all over the world. And if you have trusted in Jesus for salvation, you are a part of God's family of believers, too!

Missions moment (6 min.)

Play the "Thank You for Giving" missions video.

Leader • When churches give to missions, they help provide for missionaries to go all over the world and share the gospel. Like Peter, the missionaries encourage believers to live a godly life in an ungodly world. Missionaries appreciate the generosity of believers who help them obey God's command to go and make disciples.

Announcements (2 min.)

Make any announcements from your kids' ministry.

Prayer (2 min.)

Richards • Thank You Jesus for your example! You have shown us how to face hardship. When hardships come, please remind us that God has kept His promise to send us His Holy Spirit. He has given us everything we need. Help us to always be thankful for Jesus' example! Amen.

Additional idea

Indoor storm

Direct kids to sit in a large circle. Instruct the kids to repeat the same action as the person on their right. Select one child to be the first to start the sequence by following your lead.

Suggested sequence: rub thumb and forefinger together; rub hands together; snap fingers; clap hands; slap thighs; stomp feet; slap thighs; clap hands; snap fingers; rub hands together; rub thumb and forefinger together.

Samuels • What did you hear? [*wait for responses*]

Richards • Did you know you could recreate the sound of a rainstorm passing just by following these simple instructions? The key was every person had to carefully follow my lead. If anyone decided to do their own thing or not follow my instructions, we would've missed out on being able to experience such cool sounds.

Samuels • When Peter wrote his second letter, he focused on the Christians' need to follow his instructions. He told them to imitate Jesus' example. If the Christians didn't follow his instructions, they would have missed out on the beautiful blessing of experiencing growth in their lives.