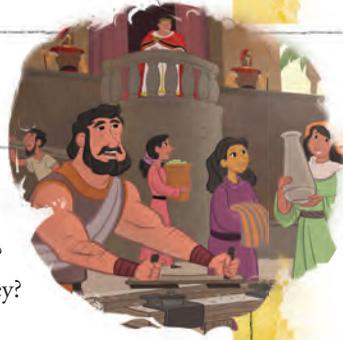


# Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God 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 to live on mission better?

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Have you ever been mistreated because of your faith?
- How do you think hard times can bring us closer to God?
- Describe a time you were encouraged by someone else.

## Faithful in Hard Times

1 Peter 1-2

**STORY POINT: PETER ENCOURAGED BELIEVERS WHO FACED PERSECUTION.**

In the early church, Jesus' followers faced persecution. People mistreated the believers because of their faith, and many believers were forced to leave their homes and go to different cities.

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote a letter to encourage them. He wanted to help these believers be faithful in hard times.

Peter said, "Praise God! He is merciful and has given us new life. We have hope because of Jesus, whom God raised from the dead." Peter reminded believers that because we are children of God, we have blessings in heaven that cannot be taken away or destroyed. When hard times happen, God is honored as we trust Him by faith.

Peter also wrote, "Hope in Jesus and be holy." Peter reminded the believers that before they trusted in Jesus, they lived however they wanted. Jesus gave His life to save them so they could have a better life—true life through His Word.

Peter said, "This world is not your home. Do not live like people around you who do wrong things. Instead, do what is good. Others will see your good works and give glory to God."

Jesus gave us an example to follow. He suffered for us, dying for our sins so that we could live for what is right.

*Christ Connection: The Bible says Christians will suffer for following Jesus. Peter encouraged believers who faced persecution for their faith. Through suffering, God can make us more like His Son. Jesus gives us hope and true life so we can live joyfully for Him, even in hard times.*



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