HOW TO USE THIS CREW LEADER GUIDE

LEADER BIBLE STUDY (BEFORE YOU LEAD)
Read this page to understand the Bible Story our Crew Kids will be learning today.

INTRODUCE THE STORY (10-15 mins.)
At the start of group time the Activity Page will introduce your group to the Bible story.
After your group completes their Activity Page, lead your group in the Session Starter activity provided.

TEACH THE STORY (Large Group Time)
Your group will join with the other small groups for Large Group time, where the Bible Story will be taught by our Large Group leader(s).

APPLY THE STORY (5-15 mins.)
Using the Key Passage Activity and the Discussion & Bible Skills, help your group better understand and apply the Bible Story.

ACTIVITY (10 mins.)
Utilize the Activity to lead your group in. Be sure to SAY the teaching point associated with the Activity.

REFLECTION & PRAYER (5 mins.)
Utilize the Reflection questions to help your group think about and discuss what they learned today. Pray together as a group before pick up/ check out.
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.

LEADER Bible Study

Like his first letter, Peter’s second letter was written to believers in the early church who had experienced persecution and suffering. At this time, Peter was in a Roman prison. He was aware that his death was imminent. (See 2 Pet. 1:13-15.) Besides the outside threats to their faith, these believers were also confronted with false teachers within the church who tried to lead them away from the true gospel.

Peter warned against false teachers. In the opening chapter of his letter, Peter’s exhortation to live like Jesus gives believers a measure for making sure they are following the truth. The best defense against false teachers is a dedication to a knowledge of the truth. As you prepare to teach from 2 Peter 1, consider these two questions:
How do we live like Jesus? Why do we live like Jesus?

First, God’s people live like Jesus through the power of Jesus (2 Pet. 1:3-4) and through personal application (2 Pet. 1:5-7). Not only is the Christian life marked by faith in Christ, it is characterized by goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. These come from knowing Jesus, who calls us to Himself.

Second, God’s people live like Jesus to confirm their calling. (2 Pet. 1:8-11) If we claim to have faith but do not live like Jesus, we have forgotten what Jesus has done for us. Because God has credited to us Jesus’ righteousness, we strive to live in loving obedience to Him to show those around us that Jesus has truly changed our lives.

Soon after writing this letter, Peter was killed in Rome as Jesus had predicted. (John 21:18-19) Help kids grasp that 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.

Christ Connection: 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.
Small Group Opening - Introduce THE STORY

Welcome Time

Welcome kids as they arrive.
Fill out attendance sheet.
During this portion of group time, look for opportunities to get to know your group. Ask them questions about their week, school, etc.

Prompt kids to think about why followers of Jesus should live differently than people who do not follow Jesus.

Activity page (5 minutes)
Invite kids to complete “Color by Number” on the activity page.

Say • In this picture, people are sharing bread with those in need. Why do you think the Bible tells us to do good things? Listen to today’s Bible story to find out.

Session starter (10 minutes)
Power!
Tip: Test out this experiment before the session.

Form small groups of kids. Lead each group to complete the following steps:
   - Unfold a large paper clip.
   - Tape one end of the paperclip to the negative end of the battery.
   - Place the light bulb on top of the opposite end of the battery – the positive side
   - Touch the other side of the wire to the metal part of the bulb, under the glass.
   - Watch the bulb light up!

Say • Wow! What a fun experiment! Without the power that came from the battery, the light bulb could not produce light. In today’s Bible story, we will learn how Jesus calls people to follow Him and gives them power to live like Him.

Transition to Large Group - Teach THE STORY
Dismiss to Small Groups
Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus!

Small Group Leader - Apply THE STORY

Key passage activity (5 minutes)
Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Peter 1:3 together.
Form kids into groups of four or five, depending on the size of the whole group. Each small group should form a circle. Display the key passage somewhere in the room. One kid in each group will start by saying the first word of the key passage. The kid to the left will say the second word and so on until the passage is complete. For the next round, cover or remove the displayed key passage so kids will have to complete this activity from memory.

Say • Great job! I’m praying that God will use this verse to encourage you and that the Holy Spirit will bring it back to your memory every time you need to remember its truth.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)
Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 2 Peter 1.
Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Peter 1:5-7.
Say • When Peter wrote this letter, he was in a Roman prison. [Point out Rome (B1) on the New Testament Mediterranean Map.]

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

• What does Peter tell Christians to seek? Help kids recognize that it is important to demonstrate faith with other God-honoring qualities such as goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, brotherly affection, and love. These qualities help others see that we are living for Jesus and point others to Him. They also show that the Holy Spirit is at work in a person’s life.
  (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gal. 5:22-23.)

• What does it mean to trust God’s righteousness? Help kids recognize that trusting God’s righteousness means trusting His character. We know who God is and how He cares for His people. He has proven Himself as trustworthy over and over. When we trust His righteousness, we are trusting that He always has the best plans for us. This trust allows us to live for Him with confidence in His power.
  (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 145:17.)

• How can you live like Jesus right now? Help kids recognize when we trust Jesus, He empowers us to live for Him. We can live for Him in any situation we face. Challenge kids to think of one situation where they can show faith and trust in God as He develops the characteristics Peter mentioned (goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, brotherly affection, and love).
  (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 3:12-14.)
Activity choice (10 minutes)
Cut out a shape of a rectangle (bookmark size). Have the kids write down the story point in bold below on one side of the bookmark. And on the other side have them write down all the different characteristics that Peter mentioned in his letter of how we our lives as Christians should be marked.

- goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love

Take time to discuss ways they can demonstrate each characteristic in their own lives.

Say • Peter instructed believers to live like Jesus. He wrote that believers should demonstrate their faith through these characteristics. When we choose to live like Jesus, others will begin to notice the difference in our lives. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us everything we need to live for Him and live like Him. We need His help to display these characteristics in our lives. We can pray and ask God to help us live like Jesus.

Reflection and Prayer (5 minutes)

Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the 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?

PRAY, thanking God for His mercy and grace and for empowering us to live for Him.

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.