

LESSON 73

Born Again!

1 PETER 1:1-12



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD PLANNED TO SAVE HIS CHILDREN THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 Peter 1:1–12 from the Scriptures or read story 151, “Born Again!” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

God’s Chosen

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ quarters—one for each student

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Refined Like Gold

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a small metal saucepan
- ✓ hot plate
- ✓ ice cube tray and specially prepared ice cubes (see instructions below)
- ✓ a cork broken into tiny pieces (or something similar that will float and not dissolve)

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Heated Gold

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Glimpsing the Future

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencils and paper
- ✓ Bibles for the class

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God’s people have been chosen—Peter opens his first letter with a blessing to the Gentile believers scattered throughout Asia and the surrounding lands. In the first two verses he summarizes the letter. God’s people are not primarily identified by nationality or by their works. They are chosen people, “elect...according to the foreknowledge of God” (1 Peter 1:1–2). From eternity past, God knew his people and the specific saving work through which he would save them. There is no way Peter could know this apart from God revealing it to him. God’s choice of his family was not based on a future view of their good works. He chose his own “according to his great mercy” (1 Peter 1:3). That tells us that the Gentiles were a part of God’s plan all along. All of God’s people, whether Jews like Peter or Gentiles like Cornelius, were known to him from eternity past.

God’s people have been born again—Peter is writing to Christians who will soon suffer persecution under Nero of Rome. To encourage them, Peter reminds them that their salvation is in Jesus Christ, who gave them new birth through his death (the sprinkling of blood) and resurrection (1 Peter 1:2–3). Peter then reminds them of their inheritance in Christ, which can never be lost (1 Peter 1:4). No matter what earthly trials we endure, we have the hope of heaven with Christ. An inheritance that will never spoil or fade awaits us.

God’s people are refined through trials—Peter uses the example of gold being refined as an illustration of what God does in the lives of believers (1 Peter 1:7). When gold ore is mined, it contains other minerals and impurities. When the ore is melted, the impurities are separated from the gold and can be skimmed off the surface of the molten metal as dross. God allows all kinds of trials to expose our weaknesses and idolatries so that we might repent and grow in our faith (see James 1:2–4). The good news is that these trials will all go away. Peter tells us we have them “now for a little while” (1 Peter 1:6), but that one day, when we go to be with the Lord in heaven, our trials will be replaced with eternal joy as we praise and honor our Lord.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Born Again

Comparing conversion to a new birth was first introduced by Jesus in the following words to Nicodemus: “Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). In

the first chapter of his Gospel, John writes, “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12–13). Paul also speaks of conversion as regeneration and renewal to Titus (Titus 3:5), and James tells us that God, “brought us forth by the word of truth” (James 1:18). Although not all of these references use the same Greek word, they clearly all describe our conversion as being born again.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today’s Bible story fit into God’s greater plan of redemption?

Peter gives us a glimpse into the Old Testament prophets and their lives. In 1 Peter 1:10–12 he writes that the prophets had a sense that the things they were writing were not for themselves but for a future generation. As a result they searched intently into the words they proclaimed. They knew salvation was hidden in God’s prophetic words. Imagine Isaiah when God gave him the fifty-third chapter of his book. Isaiah knew those words did not concern the immediate situation in Israel, and he longed to understand just how God would bring salvation.

Even the angels long to look into the mystery of God’s plan revealed. The amazing thing is that we know—and can believe. That plan, that mystery, is the gospel!

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 Peter 1:1–12 from the Scriptures or read story 151, “Born Again!” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

God's Chosen

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ quarters—one for each student

Use this illustration to help the children understand the way God's sovereignty and our responsibility work together—how God's election and our receiving salvation by faith converge. (Note: Since this is an illustration it is imperfect, but it is still helpful to make the points noted below.)

Go around the room and ask each child if they would like a quarter. When they say yes, hand them one and tell them that you planned to give them one since Friday (or the day you picked up the quarters). Repeat this with each and every student.

Then ask the following questions:

- Why did I give you the quarters?
(Because I love you and wanted to give you a gift.)
- Why do I love you?
(There is no reason other than you are my class.)
- Did you do anything to earn the quarters?
(No, we did nothing.)
- Did I require you to receive the quarter?
(No, you only asked us if we wanted one.)
- Could someone have refused a quarter?
(Yes, anyone could have refused a quarter.)
- Did anyone refuse?
(No, everyone wanted a quarter.)
- Why did everyone want a quarter?
(Because it is a valuable gift.)

Help the children see that this is how our salvation works. God chose us even before we were born. He chose us out of love, not based on anything we did. He offers everyone he chooses salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ. Although we receive this free gift by faith, we cannot say we earned it.

Then explain it is by God's grace that we have faith to believe in the gift. Those to whom God does not give the gift of faith, do not believe. They reject God and remain in their sin.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 15 MIN

Refined Like Gold

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a small metal saucepan
- ✓ hot plate
- ✓ ice cube tray and specially prepared ice cubes (see instructions below)
- ✓ a cork broken into tiny pieces (or something similar that will float and not dissolve)

Use this exercise to mimic the illustration of gold being refined.

Prior to class, fill ice cube trays half full of water, sprinkle small chips of cork on top of them, and allow the water to freeze. After the cubes are frozen, add a little more water to cover the cork and freeze it again. Finally, add a little more water to ensure the chips are frozen into the ice. This becomes the gold with impurities.

Read through 1 Peter 1:6–9, and explain that God uses trials to perfect our character. The example is the refining of gold. Explain to the class that the heat is the trial that melts the gold, releasing the impurities.

Next, explain that you are going to show them how this works. Fill the saucepan with the contaminated ice cubes. Add water to cover them. The chips should now be frozen and visible. Carry the saucepan around the class so each student can get a good look at the contents. Ask them if they would drink that water. They will object due to the impurities.

Next place the saucepan on the hot plate and turn it on. Tell the class that turning up the heat is like the trials God sends into our lives to make us pure.

While you are waiting for the ice to melt, read James 1:2–4 with them: “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

As soon as the water starts to heat up, the ice will begin to melt and the cork fragments will float to the top where you can scoop them off easily.

Tell the children that is what God does with trials that come our way. Trials make the heat that exposes our sin. Refer back to James 4 from the previous lesson. When we don’t get what we want (a trial) our idolatries are exposed (by our quarreling and fighting).

Ask the class to share how God has used trials to strengthen their faith.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Heated Gold

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Have the students draw a picture of gold being heated on a fire. Ask them to write across the top of the page “Trials refine our faith.”

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN**Glimpsing the Future****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ pencils and paper
- ✓ Bibles for the class

The aim of this object lesson is to review Psalm 22:14–18 and Isaiah 53:1–6 as examples of what Peter was talking about in 1 Peter 1:10–12.

First read through 1 Peter 1:10–12 and make sure the students understand what Peter is saying. (Peter reveals that the Old Testament prophets understood that the salvation God was going to bring was not for them but for a future generation.)

Then assign half the class to review Psalm 22:14–18 and the other half, Isaiah 53:1–6. Have them write down all the connections (with verse numbers) they see between their passage and Jesus' sacrificial death and salvation. When everyone has had a chance to finish the exercise, review their work as a class. Remind them that these Scriptures were written hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. Talk about how amazing it is that God gave prophets a glimpse of what he was going to do in the future through Jesus. Other passages you can review with the class are Jeremiah 31:31–34; 32:37–41; and Isaiah 52:10.