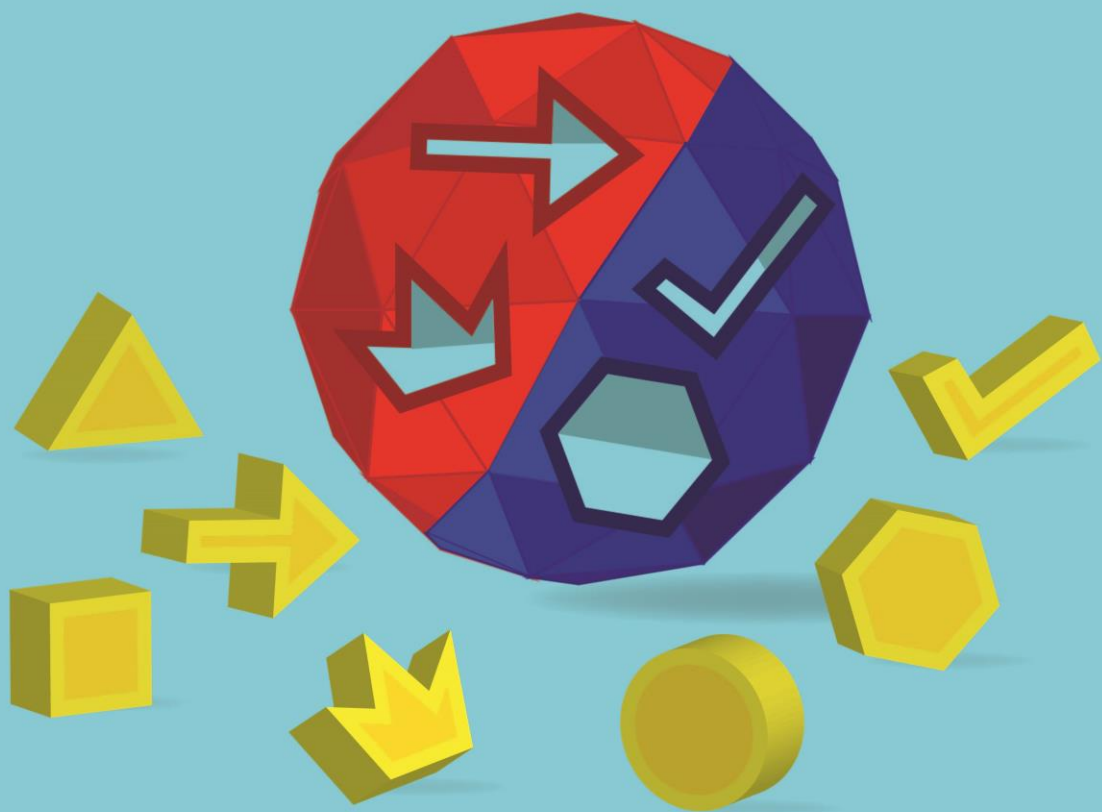


# SHAPED

**A SERIES ON 1 PETER**



# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

## INSTRUCTIONS

For each week we will upload three devotions that build upon and link to our Kids Alive message on Sunday. Three devotions means:

- Those who already do devotions can continue these the other half of the week;
- Those for whom devotions are possible at most every second night of the week can also be included.

The devotions will follow this format:

### **INTRO**

A short introductory activity or discussion

### **RECAP**

A recap of the previous devotion

### **READ**

A short passage will be printed. This makes it less time-consuming and also excludes the need to find a bible.

### **EXPLORE**

Some simple comprehension questions that direct our understanding of the passage

### **APPLY**

Something we can learn from the passage and apply to our own lives

### **PRAY**

Suggested prayer points that come from the passage

### **MEMORY VERSE**

This is only suggested if time permits as it may be a slightly longer activity. You may design something to remember the verse or do some fun games or activities to aid in remembering the verses.

# WEEK 1: December 30-January 5

## DAY 1

### INTRO:

Share with your family something that you were picked for that made you really happy.

### RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### READ 1 PETER 1:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup>who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: grace and peace be yours in abundance. <sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

### EXPLORE:

What do the first two verses say God has picked us for? (*To be obedient to Jesus*)

What else does it say God has chosen for us? (*To be born again into a living hope so that we might receive an inheritance*)

What does it say will happen to us while we wait for our final salvation? (*We will suffer grief in all kinds of trials*)

### APPLY:

This letter was written to Christians who were suffering throughout the Roman empire. However rather than focusing on this the opening verses encourage them to focus on the hope for salvation they have since God has picked them to become part of his family. We should do the same: when we face hard times we should rejoice in the hope we have!

### PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has chosen us to be part of his family and to inherit salvation. Pray that we might obey Jesus even when it is really hard to do so.

### MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

*In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope. 1 Peter 1:3*

Find a picture of a baby either on the internet or in a magazine or newspaper. Attach to the picture this week's verse and put it in a place where you can start to lean it.

# WEEK 1: December 30-January 5

## DAY 2

### **INTRO:**

Discuss with your family: in what ways are your children like their parents?

### **RECAP:**

What are Christians encouraged to remember when they go through hard times?

### **READ 1 PETER 1:13-17**

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup>But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup>for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." <sup>17</sup>Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

### **EXPLORE:**

As God's children how should we no longer behave? (*We should no longer live according to our desires*)

How should we behave instead? (*By being holy as our Heavenly Father is holy*)

How else should we live? (*As foreigners who don't belong here on earth*)

### **APPLY:**

This passage continues on from our previous devotion. Since we belong to God's family this should shape how we live. Focusing on our new family means we will no longer do what we want but what God wants. We will grow to look and act like our Heavenly Father. We need to live as if we don't belong to this world, for we have an inheritance kept for us in heaven which means that's where we really belong!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father he has saved us from this world so that we might belong to the next. Pray that we might be holy like our Heavenly Father and act like foreigners when it comes to the things and desires of this world.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope. 1 Peter 1:3*

Stick this week's verse onto a family photo or drawing of your family to show you belong to a new family: the family of God!

# WEEK 1: December 30-January 5

## DAY 3

### **INTRO:**

Discuss: how do you think God wants us to relate to other people in God's family?

### **RECAP:**

Since we belong to God's family now how should we act generally?

### **READ 1 PETER 1:22-2:3**

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup>For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup>For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, <sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup>now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

### **EXPLORE:**

Since we've been born again into God's family how does it say we should relate to one another in verse 27? (*By loving one another deeply*)

How does verse 1 say we shouldn't relate? (*In malice [being mean], deceit [being untrue], hypocrisy [saying something but doing the opposite], envy [being jealous], or in slander [saying something against someone else]*)

As newborn children of our Heavenly Father what should we crave instead? (*Pure spiritual milk [the passage seems to suggest this is God's word]*)

### **APPLY:**

The first chapter of *1 Peter* has urged us to focus on God rather than our difficulties in this world. We've seen this looks like not being selfish but being holy, considering ourselves as foreigners in this world. The way we relate to others should also show we belong to God's family. What does the way you act towards others show? Is the word of God helping you to grow up in your salvation or do you still act like a baby in the way you speak to others?

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has loved us and been kind to us by saving us. Pray that this will shape the way we act and speak towards others.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope. 1 Peter 1:3*

Take turns to say this week's verse in your best baby's voice!

# WEEK 2: January 6-12

## DAY 1

### **INTRO:**

What do you like about being in a family?

### **RECAP:**

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### **READ 1 PETER 2:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup>and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

### **EXPLORE:**

What do we know about the ‘living stone’ Jesus? (*He was rejected by people but chosen by God*)

What does the passage say about us being like stones? (We are being built into a spiritual house)

What are the two responses we can have to Jesus? (We can reject him by disobeying or we can see Jesus as precious and trust in him by living as God’s chosen people)

### **APPLY:**

Jesus is the ‘cornerstone’ or foundation for the household or family of God. This means that when we trust in Jesus we need to build our lives on him. We are being built into a new kind of temple since God dwells in us by his Spirit. This makes us a holy people who are called to declare God’s praises!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that we can belong to him and be part of his family. Pray that his Spirit might dwell in us to make us holy so that we can sing God’s praises!

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires.* **1 Peter 2:11**

Trace the shape of a person onto a piece of paper. Write the verse inside the shape and place rocks or Lego blocks as a border around it.

# WEEK 2: January 6-12

## DAY 2

### INTRO:

Share something you have seen another family member do in the last few days for which you thank God.

### RECAP:

What are those who trust in Jesus being built into?

### READ 1 PETER 2:11-17

<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup>Live such good lives among the nations that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. <sup>13</sup>Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup>or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup>For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup>Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup>Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.

### EXPLORE:

What does the writer urge us to do? (*Abstain from sinful desires*)

What should we do instead? (*Live good lives for others to see so they will glorify God*)

What is the first good deed mentioned in verse 13? (*Submit to human authorities*)

### APPLY:

The people of God are described here as foreigners and exiles. This means that, although they are part of God's family, society may not accept them as part of their community. As a result we are to live God's way, by saying 'no' to sin and by being a witness to God by doing good deeds (like submitting to those over us). This means the way we respond to our parents, teacher or boss should show others that we belong to God!

### PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has taught us what it looks like to do good. Pray that he would help us submit to those in charge so that others will come to glorify him.

### MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

*I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires.* **1 Peter 2:11**

Get each family member to write the verse on some paper. Roll a dice: if you roll an even number add a line around the verse to make an octagon shape; if it is an odd number do not. See who is the first person to complete a stop sign!

# WEEK 2: January 6-12

## DAY 3

### **INTRO:**

Who lives a life that you admire?

### **RECAP:**

What is the first good deed God wants us to do?

### **READ 1 PETER 2:20-24**

<sup>20</sup>If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."  
<sup>23</sup>When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.

### **EXPLORE:**

Whose example are we called to follow? (*Jesus*)

What does this passage say it looks like to follow Jesus? (*Don't commit sin, be deceitful or retaliate, but entrust yourself to God*)

Why might this be hard? (*Like Jesus we might suffer for doing good!*)

### **APPLY:**

The word 'example' used here described an image that children would trace over to learn their alphabet. We are to follow Jesus by tracing his life of doing good and avoiding sin. This might mean that, like Jesus, people will reject us, but we need to ensure we don't say things back or respond in ways that show we don't trust God to judge fairly one day.

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus lived a perfect life, giving us an example to follow. Pray that we would respond like him when we feel treated unfairly, trusting God to bring justice rather than trying to bring it about by ourselves.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires.* **1 Peter 2:11**

Try to trace this week's verse by either writing it out for another family member or by printing it in a fun font you can trace over.



# WEEK 3: January 13-19

## DAY 1

### **INTRO:**

Encourage the person next to you by describing how they have acted like Jesus recently.

### **RECAP:**

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### **READ 1 PETER 3:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by your behaviour <sup>2</sup>when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

### **EXPLORE:**

What relationship is this passage about? (*A marriage – husband and wife*)

How should a Christian wife act like Jesus? (*By being pure and respectful*)

Why should they act this way? (*So that the unbelieving husband might be won over to Christ by such behaviour*)

### **APPLY:**

In the previous devotion we saw that the way we relate to those in authority over us can show people Jesus. In the same way, in this passage the way a wife acts towards her husband who doesn't know Jesus is important too! We are called to live pure lives that respect those with different beliefs. This shows the change that Jesus brings to our lives!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus changes us inside and out. Pray that we will show Christ in our actions in all of our relationships.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:17*

Write this week's verse around a page like a border. Draw inside a picture of a relationship that you need to work on so that you are more like Jesus.

# WEEK 3: January 13-19

## DAY 2

### **INTRO:**

Play a game of charades acting out ways you can bless others (eg. making their bed) but instead of calling out use self control and write down as many as you can and compare at the end who go the most right.

### **RECAP:**

How should wives act towards their unbelieving husbands?

### **READ 1 PETER 3:8-11**

<sup>8</sup>Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup>Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup>For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. <sup>11</sup>They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it."

### **EXPLORE:**

How should God's people act in every relationship? (*Be like-minded, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble*)

If someone insults us, how should we respond? (*By blessing them; by pursuing peace*)

What shouldn't we do? (*Insult them back. We need to keep our tongue from evil and our lips from deceit*)

### **APPLY:**

Just as Jesus sought peace and blessed those who sinned against him, so we are called to do the same. This can be really hard, so we need prayer to help us!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus didn't try to insult or hurt people. Pray that we might be the same and be loving, kind, compassionate and humble when people insult us.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:17*

Write this week's verse on a little card and add an encouraging message. Hide it for a family member to find so that they feel blessed!

## WEEK 3: January 13-19

### DAY 3

#### **INTRO:**

Imagine you have been good all day in class but one person mucks up and you have to stay behind. How does this make you feel?

#### **RECAP:**

How should we act when people insult us?

#### **READ 1 PETER 3:13-16**

<sup>13</sup>Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." <sup>15</sup>But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup>For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

#### **EXPLORE:**

Why does this passage say we might suffer? (*For doing good*)

How should we feel if this happens? (*By not being frightened*)

How should we respond if we suffer for doing what's right? (*By gently and respectfully explaining that Jesus is our Lord*)

#### **APPLY:**

While 3:12 says that the Lord will watch out for us, sometimes people will still harm us for doing good. We are told not to be frightened but to gently and respectfully share the hope we have in Jesus. This would have been very hard for the first readers of this letter, who might have ended up in gaol for doing it! It is still hard to do it today; often we'd rather be quiet than talk about Jesus to those who don't believe in him.

#### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he watches over us. Pray that we would trust him to do this as we share our hope in Jesus to those who don't yet know him.

#### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:17*

Make a paper heart. On one side write this week's verse, and on the other write 'Jesus is Lord'!

# WEEK 4: January 20-26

## DAY 1

### INTRO:

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but school returns in a week or so! How does the end of the school holiday break approaching affect how you will spend your remaining time?

### RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### READ 1 PETER 4:3-5

<sup>3</sup>You have spent enough time in the past doing what the other nations choose to do [...]. <sup>4</sup>They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. <sup>5</sup>But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

### EXPLORE:

What had the people written to in this letter spent their time doing in the past? (*What the other nations had done*)

What did they no longer do? (*Join others in reckless and wild living*)

What will everyone have to do one day? (*Give an account to Jesus, who will judge us all*)

### APPLY:

Just like the end of our school holidays might affect how we spend our time now so the approach of the end of all time should affect how we spend our time each week. Knowing that Jesus will judge us all should affect what we think and do. How should your life change in light of the judgement to come?

### PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has set a day when Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. Pray that we will be ready for that day, prepared to give an account for how we have spent our time here on earth.

### MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

*Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you.* **1 Peter 4:12**

Make a fire by using painted handprints or red, yellow and orange paper. Write under it this week's verse and keep it in a place so that you can start to learn the verse.



# WEEK 4: January 20-26

## DAY 2

### **INTRO:**

How does the end of our world affect your everyday life?

### **RECAP:**

What will happen one day that should affect our lives now?

### **READ 1 PETER 4:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. <sup>8</sup>Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup>Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup>If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### **EXPLORE:**

How should the end of all things shape our prayers? (*We should be watchful and serious so we can pray*)

How should the end of all things affect the way we relate? (*We should love deeply despite people's sins; we should offer hospitality to one another without grumbling; we should serve one another*)

How should we serve? (*By faithfully stewarding God's grace to others, by speaking as if we were speaking God's words, and by using the strength God provides*)

### **APPLY:**

Chances are the end of the world doesn't really enter our thoughts on the average week, let alone shape our actions. Since those who received this letter originally were suffering as Christians, it would have been on their minds a lot more. We all have a limited time here on earth; our prayers and care for one another need to be focused. How does your generosity and prayer life need to change as the work and school year begin?

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he gives us his grace, word, and strength. Pray that we might use these to speak and serve others each day.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you.* **1 Peter 4:12**

Practise saying this week's verse to each other in your most surprised voice.

# WEEK 4: January 20-26

## DAY 3

### **INTRO:**

How do you generally respond when someone insults you?

### **RECAP:**

What areas of our life should be shaped by the end of our world?

### **READ 1 PETER 4:12-14**

<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.<sup>13</sup>But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

### **EXPLORE:**

What was happening to the original readers of this letter? *(They were going through a fiery ordeal; they were being insulted for believing in Jesus)*

How did the writer of this letter encourage them to respond? *(By rejoicing that they were participating in the suffering of Jesus)*

How did he encourage them to think of themselves? *(As blessed)*

### **APPLY:**

What a strange way of thinking – I'm sure it is unusual for anyone to insult us and for us to rejoice and feel blessed! However what this highlights for us is that Jesus suffered by being insulted before being glorified to God's right hand. In the same way it is God's will for us to suffer first before we are taken to be with God. What we are rejoicing in is not the hurtful thing said but that we are following Jesus!

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that he will take us to be with him one day. Pray that until then we will be willing to follow Jesus, even if that means suffering as he did.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you. 1 Peter 4:12*

Test how well you know this week's verse: call out a number and say the word that corresponds to it (e.g. word 7 in the verse is 'fiery').

# WEEK 5: January 27-February 2

## DAY 1

### **INTRO:**

Who cares for you when you are hurting or sad?

### **RECAP:**

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

### **READ 1 PETER 5:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed. <sup>2</sup>Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup>not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

### **EXPLORE:**

Who was this part of the letter specifically written to? (*The elders: the older and wiser leaders amongst the Christians*)

What were these elders asked to do? (*Shepherd or pastor the flock by watching over, serving and being examples to them*)

What would happen if they did this well? (*When the chief shepherd appears they will receive the crown of glory*)

### **APPLY:**

Peter had been with Jesus and seen him both suffer and be glorified. He asked the older people in the church to care for those who were suffering so that they might be glorified too. Who are you older than that you can care for? Will you be willing to watch over them, eager to serve them and a good example to them when they are hurting or sad?

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus is our Shepherd in that he watches over, serves and is an example to us. Pray that we might be like Jesus and do this for others.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:4*

Draw a picture of this week's verse: Jesus, our chief shepherd, giving you a crown! Write above it this week's verse so you can begin to learn it.

# WEEK 5: January 27-February 2

## DAY 2

### **INTRO:**

How many different items of clothing have you worn today?

### **RECAP:**

Who should care for those who are suffering?

### **READ 1 PETER 5:5-7**

<sup>5</sup>In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble." <sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

### **EXPLORE:**

What are younger people in the church required to do? (*Submit to their elders*)

How should God's people clothe themselves? (*With humility toward one another*)

Why should we humble ourselves? (*So that God might lift us up*)

### **APPLY:**

Australia is a strange place. We like to talk ourselves up, but at the same time we cut down those who place themselves over us! We are not good at respecting those in authority, let alone submitting to them joyfully. However once again in this letter we are reminded that God favours those who are not proud but willing to submit. Who do you struggle to submit to? Spend some time in confession.

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that we can cast our cares on him, knowing that he cares for us. Pray that we might willingly submit to those over us as we should.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:4*

Draw a number of crown shapes and write on them this week's verse. Practice putting the shapes in the correct order!



# WEEK 5: January 27-February 2

## DAY 3

### **INTRO:**

Share with you family: what animal do you find the scariest: a shark, snake, spider, crocodile, lion, or something else?

### **RECAP:**

Who should we submit to?

### **READ 1 PETER 5:8-11**

<sup>8</sup>Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, stand firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### **EXPLORE:**

Why should we be alert? (*Our enemy the devil prowls like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*)

What can we do about this? (*Resist him*)

What will God do about this? (*After we have suffered for a little while he will restore us and make us strong, firm and steadfast*)

### **APPLY:**

The picture of someone simply resisting a hungry lion seems ridiculous until we read that God himself will make us strong. When we are told then that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same suffering, this should drive us to call on the God of grace to give us all strength in our struggles.

### **PRAY:**

Thank our Heavenly Father that in his grace he not only calls us to his eternal glory in Christ but he also gives us strength in suffering until we get there. Pray that the family of believers throughout the world will stand firm in the faith and resist our enemy the devil.

### **MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)**

*When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory.* **1 Peter 5:4**

Design a "crown of glory" and wear it as you repeat this week's verse.



**ST PAUL'S**  
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