

Peter's First Letter (cont'd)
1 Peter 2:18–5:14

Memory Verse: *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”* 1 Pet. 2:24 (ESV)

Lesson Helps:

Alternative lesson aims and plans:

1. For *children's* classes: There is a great deal of emphasis in 1 Peter on the sufferings and subsequent glories of Jesus Christ. For example, see 1 Peter 1:10-12, 18-21; 2:21-25; 3:18-22; 4:1; 5:1. Possible aim: My students will learn about the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Christ, so that they will believe in him for salvation. Simply tell the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, and invite your children to put their faith in him. Along the way, focus attention on 1 Peter 2:21-25, especially the memory verse (2:24). (Of course, you can use this same lesson with teens and adults, especially if you are concerned that some in your class may not be Christians.)
2. For *teen* classes: Much of 1 Peter has to do with the theme of suffering. 1 Peter 4:12-19 focuses on persecution for Christ's sake, especially verbal abuse or ridicule. Possible aim: My students will learn about the ridicule and insults that they may face for the sake of Christ, so that they will respond to such ridicule in the proper manner. You might try role-playing several situations and discuss a proper Christian response: (1) Someone expresses surprise that you attend church so frequently; (2) someone mocks Christ, the Bible, or another Christian in your presence; (3) someone accuses you of being bigoted or narrow-minded because you believe Christ is the only way to God or because of certain moral standards you hold (abortion is wrong, homosexuality is a sin, etc.); (4) someone laughs at your carrying a Bible. (Again, this lesson would be suitable for adults as well.)
3. For *adults*: Pick out one of the recurring themes in 1 Peter and base your lesson around that theme: (1) suffering like Christ (in virtually every chapter); (2) submission to human authority (2:13–3:7; 5:5). Or focus on a particular passage and build your lesson from it, for example: 1 Peter 4:7-11, serving Christ until he comes; or 1 Peter 5:6-11, coping with trials.

Home Assignment:

 Read 2 Peter.

 Memorize 2 Peter 3:9.