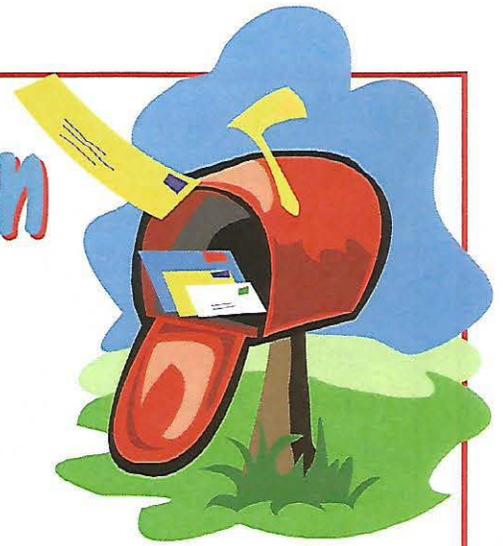


# Letters From Heaven



Lesson 11

## Obeying Jesus Even When It's Hard

**Theme:** Faith—Obeying Jesus even when it's hard

### Memory Verse

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith....”

Hebrews 12:1-2

### Daily Bible Readings

- 1 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16
- 2 1 Peter 2:1-5, 9-21
- 3 1 Peter 3:1-8, 14-22
- 4 1 Peter 4:1-16
- 5 1 Peter 5

**E**verybody has ups and downs. Our “up” times are those when things are going good for us and we do what is right. Our “down” times are those when things are not going good and we do something wrong. The apostle Peter also had his ups and downs in following Jesus. He was often the first to speak and the first to learn a lesson Jesus was teaching. But sometimes Peter didn't do so well.

Peter told Jesus that he would always stay with Him and do whatever He asked. But the night Jesus was arrested and taken away by

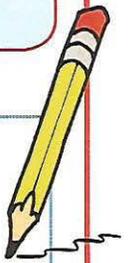
**After this lesson you should be able to ...**

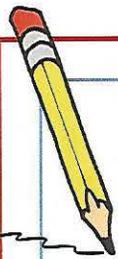
- List three ways Peter describes God's people.
- Identify what lasts forever.
- Describe how the devil is like a lion.
- Identify what Christians are to do when others make fun of them.

### 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16

Christians may have all kinds of troubles, but Peter said troubles will help us be strong. Because of this, we should a) fight back, b), be sorry, c) be happy.

God is holy, and He want us to be holy. Holy means ...





### 1 Peter 2:1-5, 9-21

If we keep wanting to know more about God and His Word, we will a) grow stronger, b) grow weaker, c) live longer.

Chosen, royal, and holy are words that describe that God's people are a) old, b) young, c) special.

soldiers, Peter and all the disciples left and fled into the darkness. Later, Peter said he did not know Jesus and that he was not Jesus' disciple. He denied Jesus this way three times. Peter was sad about saying that He didn't know Jesus, and he went out and cried.

But Peter learned from his mistakes and sins, and he grew stronger and stronger. When Jesus

was raised from the dead, Peter knew without a doubt that Jesus was God's Son. He knew that all people should believe in Jesus and follow Him. Peter preached the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. Later in his life, Peter wrote two letters to Christians that we know as First and Second Peter. In 1 Peter, the apostle wrote to people who were suffering as Christians. He encouraged them to follow Jesus even when it was hard.

### Being Saved by Jesus

Peter wrote to people who were saved by Jesus. He explained that Jesus died for sins to bring people to God – so they can be His people. Peter said that Jesus made this possible through His “precious blood.” He means by this that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Because Jesus died for us, God forgives our sins and we become His children. We grow up in the Lord and our faith becomes stronger and stronger.

Peter wanted Christians to keep obeying God's Word. God's Word lasts forever, so we must always obey it. Peter wrote that people are like grass and flowers. Grass grows and flowers bloom, but neither of them lasts. Grass dies if the sun is too hot or if the temperature gets too cold. Flowers bloom, but after a little while the bloom falls off. But God's Word lasts forever. It is always true, and it always leads people in the right way. We should learn and follow God's Word.

### Suffering for Jesus

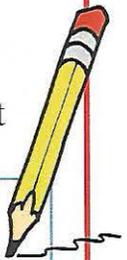
Peter calls Christians “chosen,” “royal,” and “holy.” These words mean that God's people are important and special to Him. But it's not always easy to obey Him. Sometimes being a Christian is hard. Other

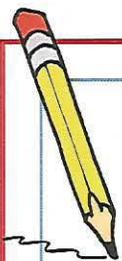
### 1 Peter 3:1-8, 14-22

Match the following:

- |          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| Wives    | Be kind and humble         |
| Men      | Be beautiful inside        |
| Everyone | Understand and honor women |

True or False? We shouldn't do evil, but if someone does evil to us it's okay to do evil back to them.





### 1 Peter 4:1-16

True or False? People of the world may be surprised that Christians do not sin along with everyone else.

True or False? Christians should not be surprised that it is sometimes hard to do what is right.

people may say bad things about Christians. They may treat them unkindly. Peter told Christians not to be surprised if this happens. Jesus suffered when He was on earth, and those who follow Him may suffer, also.

Peter writes that Christians must be careful about how they act, even when it's hard. He teaches us to be kind and tender. He says, "Don't pay

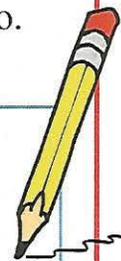
back evil with evil. Don't pay back unkind words with unkind words. Instead, pay them back with kind words." Do you want to have a good life? Do you want to enjoy your days on the earth? If you do, Peter says we must be careful about what we say and do. If we sin, we can come back to God and He will forgive and help us.

Peter warns that the devil will always tempt us to do wrong. He calls the devil a roaring lion who prowls around trying to find someone to eat. He will sneak up and pounce on us. But Peter says we can stand up to the devil. We can stand firm in what we believe and keep obeying God's Word. Doing this will be hard at times. But God will help us be strong, and He will help us go to heaven.

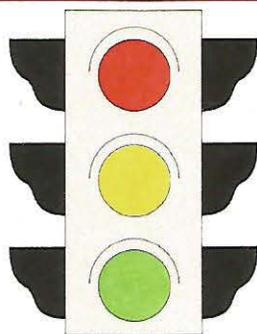
### 1 Peter 5

*Ask a parent to help you with this.* What does it mean to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God?

Name two things the devil does as "a roaring lion prowling around wanting to eat someone."



I obey even when it's hard.

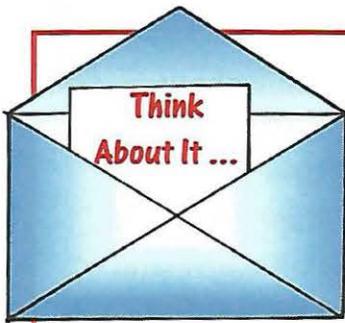


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red** — usually not

**Yellow** — sometimes

**Green** — almost always



Suppose your teacher offered a free ticket to Disney World to the student who is the kindest to everyone in the class for the next month. You really want that ticket. But there are two kids in your class who pick on you all the time. Describe how hard you would try and what you would do to be able to receive the ticket.



Fill in the blanks of the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-10.

“Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit, for theirs is the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven.

Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall be \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall receive \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ in heart, for they shall see \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall be called the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Blessed are those who have been \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_, for theirs is the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_.” NASB

What are 1, 2, and 3 John about?

On a map on the inside cover, place a star on the city of Bethany.