

## Notes for parents

- We have used the International Children's Bible when prepping this. It's what we use in Children's Church and is easily accessible. If you don't have an ICB at home, you can switch to the NIV or another version (just read it through with that version first so you're not caught out!) or you can go to <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+4&version=ICB> and print out your own! This week I have been quite specific in suggesting what verses we look at. You might want to do the same or not depending on the kinds of questions you wish to field from your children.
- Nothing is dependent on a printer, so don't worry if you've just got this up on a screen. You can print it out if you'd like, or there might be some things you just want to copy down (eg there are some lists you might want to copy out).
- Try and sit down all together at a table or on the floor in a circle that is clear and free from distractions. Don't worry – your kids will still find something to be distracted by, but let's give them a good start!
- Don't expect them to sit quietly! Kids take a surprising amount in whilst making noise/wriggling. But similarly, if you think that they've stopped concentrating then switch tack and give them something to do, answer, touch – hopefully there'll be ideas in the notes of what that could be.
- You might want to arm children with paper and pens/pencils so they can jot/draw things as you go along. Sometimes this can really help people process things (you could try it in a sermon too!)
- Go at your own pace. You know your kids best and if they get really into something go with it! Equally if you feel that there's too much -stop! You might want to come back to it later in the day or another day entirely.
- You can use these notes however you like! If (for example) your oldest child is a Sparkler then you could just do those notes, however it's more likely you have different children of different ages. So please pick and choose whatever you like; borrow from other age group suggestions either older or younger or ignore all the notes, grab a Bible and go freestyle!
- Don't forget to cover the whole thing in prayer. Pray before you start and at the end. There are some suggestions, but they are not an exhaustive list. You may want to abandon it completely too and pray for your current situation, or friends and family. We'd covet your prayers too...

## 1 Peter 4:1-6

Strengthen yourselves so that you will live your lives here on earth *doing what God wants, not doing evil things* that people want. **1 Peter 4:2-3**

### **“Now you belong to Jesus, live for him”**



#### **OPENING ACTIVITY**

Play a game of “Would you rather”. You could play this a couple of different ways, and you can easily direct different questions at different aged folk in your family.

- Read out a list of different things and people have to choose which they would prefer... eg “Which would you choose—Coco Pops or Cornflakes? Apples or bananas? Scooters or bikes? (Good for younger kids)
- Read out a list of (slightly more involved) questions and have a discussion. (Better for older kids-Y3+)

The passage today talks of there being two different types of people. Those who live for God and those who live for themselves. We make different choices depending on who we are living for—Jesus or our sinful hearts.

Jesus takes sin really seriously. So seriously that he died on the cross to deal with it once and for all. (v1)

If we are Christians the Bible says it's like we have died with Jesus and risen again with him. We're new people and now belong to Jesus. We're finished with sin.

If we belong to Jesus then we should be living lives under God's authority, and not our own anymore.

People who don't know and love Jesus might not understand the choices that we make or what we're doing, or why we're doing it—and so they might insult us or even actively persecute us.

But there will come a day when Jesus comes again to judge and bring in his new kingdom and he is going to want to know why we have lived the lives we lived and made the choices that we made. If we don't know Jesus then we will be in trouble here! If we do know Jesus as our Saviour and Friend, then we can be reassured that Jesus has dealt with our sin and we will be with him in his kingdom forever!

This is really great news!

We don't know when Jesus is coming back –it might be really soon! So keep living for Jesus, even when it's hard—because we belong to him.



- **Who do Christians belong to?**

*We belong to Jesus because he loves us and died for us on the cross. He took all our sin away – all the bad things that we think or do or say and all the good things we don't do. When we belong to Jesus, we don't have to live that sinful way anymore!*

- **If we belong to Jesus—who should we obey?**

We should obey and live his way. God's way is the best way!

**Cut out the list (or write your own!) of things that God wants and what other people want. Have a look at them each in turn and decide if that's something that God wants you to do.**

We don't want to do the other things because we belong to Jesus and want to live for him.

- Jesus loves us so much that he is coming back to take us to be with him forever!
- Who will Jesus take to be in his Forever Kingdom? (*those who belong to Jesus*)
- Will you be there? (Do you belong to Jesus?)



**PRAYER TIME**

Teaspoon (TSP) prayers... The following are examples. You can read them out a phrase at a time or just let your children pray straight from their hearts.

**T Thank you**

Thank you God that you sent Jesus so that all of our sin has been taken away. Thank you that Jesus is coming back to be our Forever King

**S Sorry**

I am sorry that I don't always live like you're in charge.

**P Please**

Please help me to live for you. Please help me to even when it's hard.

Please help me to believe and trust in you. **AMEN**

**Stanage Y1's  
&  
Burbage Y2's**

- Who is it that Christians belong to?
- What did God do so that we can belong to him? (*He made us, he sent Jesus to live on earth with us, Jesus died for us and took away our sin, Jesus rose again, God sent us the Holy Spirit to help us*)

- If we belong to Jesus—who should we obey? (*they may talk about those in authority here too because we've recently talked about it!*)
- When we belong to Jesus we have a new king in charge of our lives, and so we will behave differently.



**Come up with a list of some things that you won't do anymore and another (separate paper) list that you will do now.**

Something good to ask while you do these is "If I do all of these (good) things –will Jesus love me more?" **NO!** Jesus loves us completely and that is why he died for us. We belong to him if we trust in him and nothing can take us from him. We live these different lives because we belong to him, it's not how we get to belong to him.

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**Curbar Y3-4's  
&  
Froggat Y5-6's**

**Note for parents:** This is done more as a discussion/Bible study. This week I have been quite specific in suggesting what verses we look at. You may want to do the same (perhaps by printing out relevant verses if you're able to) depending on the kinds of questions you wish to field from your children. Again feel free to adapt as most helpful.

**Read 1 Peter 4:1-2**

1. How do we know that Jesus takes sin seriously? (v1—*Jesus suffered so that our sin would be dealt with*)
2. Who is it that non-Christians live their lives for? (v2 *They live for themselves. They may not be awful people all of the time—but they have themselves as King rather than Jesus. [Shove off God, I'm in charge, No to your ways—SIN]*)
3. What are we like now that we know Jesus? (*look back to 1 Peter 3:8 onwards from last week to jog your memory*)

Something good to ask while you do these is "If I do all of these (good) things –will Jesus love me more?" **NO!** Jesus loves us completely and that is why he died for us. We belong to him if we trust in him and nothing can take us from him. We live these different lives because we belong to him, it's not how we get to belong to him.

**Read 1 Peter 4:4-6**

4. What might other people think of us if we're behaving differently? (v4)
5. Does it matter what they think of you? How does v 5 help? (*What they say or do might still hurt, but it matters most what God thinks of you. Jesus will judge every body when he comes again, and we will have to explain our choices.*)

Peter give us hope by reminding us that if we follow Jesus, while our bodies may die, we will live forever with him in the new creation!

6. Will you be there? (Do you belong to Jesus?)



**PRAYER TIME**

- Thank God for Jesus—that our sin has been dealt with through his death and resurrection.
- Ask God to forgive you for the times when you don't act like he's the one your living your life for. Ask him to help you to live for him instead of yourself.
- If people are picking on you for being a Christian and you're finding it hard then you can pray and ask God to help you to keep living the right way for him.





Sharing toys

Hitting out

Getting cross when we don't win

Helping set the table

Listening to instructions

Talking to God

Running away

Reading the Bible

Being kind

Using mean words

Inviting new people to join your game

Talking to others about Jesus

Telling lies
