

May 18, 2003
Early Childhood
Don't Be Afraid of Suffering For Doing Good

1 Peter 3:13-4:19
1PET03EC

1 Peter

Materials I Need:

Key for symbols:

- This symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow way down for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.
- ② This symbol represents ideas that can be used for two- and three-year-olds.
- ④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Memory Verse for 2s and 3s:


1 Peter 1:3: He has given us new birth into a living hope.


Memory Verse for 4s and 5s:


1 Peter 2:13: Submit (yourselves) for the Lord's sake to every authority.


Hook:

- Teacher Tip:** Remind the parents they are to pick up their child from your classroom in person. They are not to send a brother, sister or grandparent unless prearranged. It also alleviates congestion at the sign-in area if only one parent picks up the child. You may need to ask friends and relatives to wait outside the door to alleviate confusion at drop off and pick up times. For the safety of the children, it helps you, as the teacher, to know the parents by sight so when it gets busy at the door, you can look at faces as well as check the attendance chart.
- "Look What Happened to Jesus" Center:** Provide several picture Bible stories of the last week of Jesus' life. The crucifixion may or may not be included depending upon the maturity of the class members. Let the children study the pictures and then make a list of the bad things that Jesus endured. "Peter wrote the Christians to tell them they would suffer persecution just like Jesus did. Jesus suffered when He was treated meanly, and He never did one sinful thing His whole life. He suffered persecution for doing good things."
- "Don't Be Afraid!" Center:** Bring to class a box just large enough for a child to get into. Have the teacher explain to the child he must stay quietly curled up in the box until he is let out. "Who can wait patiently in the dark box without being afraid of not being let out? In the book of First Peter, Peter told the early Christians not to be afraid when scary things happened to them. If they suffered for trying to do what was right, God would bless them with joy."
- People Suffer for Doing Wrong: (1PET03ECGF4, 1PET03ECGF6 and 1PET03ECGF7)** Give each child a GF4 picture, a GF6 wall hanging, and GF7 toys and clothes to paste on the floor section of the picture. "There is a kind of suffering and punishment that comes when we disobey and do the wrong thing. When we are punished for doing a bad thing, it hurts, but we deserve it. This little boy was asked more than once by his mother to clean up his room. He disobeyed and didn't do it. He is suffering for doing wrong. Peter wants us to know we can't be glad for suffering for doing wrong. But if we suffer for trying to do the right thing, then God will bless us."

 **What Does Persecute Mean? (1PET03ECGF2 and 1PET03ECGF5)** Give each child a copy of the two pictures (GF2 and GF5). Being persecuted means being treated badly when we have done nothing wrong. These pictures show persecution because the person being yelled at has done nothing wrong. What do you think these people are saying? Is it something mean? Should they be saying these things? How should the girl with the Bible feel? Let each child choose a picture to color and take home. "In today's Bible Adventure, Peter wrote the early Christians to tell them they would be persecuted for doing nothing wrong. They would be hurt by other people who did not love Jesus in their hearts. But God blesses Christians for being persecuted. He gives them joy and takes care of them."

 **Hearts for Jesus:** Provide several different shapes, sizes and colors of paper, along with washable marking pens for the children. Show the children how to draw a heart. Have them decorate their chosen piece of paper with only hearts. Some hearts will be big and some small. Some will need to be in a line and others could be in a circle according to the shape of paper they choose. Have them make as many on their paper as they can. "In today's Bible Adventure, Peter said when we as Christians have hearts that love Jesus, we can trust God to take care of us. We can rejoice and be glad and keep on trying to do the right thing."

 **"Cleaning Up" Center:** Dump a pile of blocks from a container on the floor and provide a broom and dustpan for the children. Tell the children they can play with the blocks; but when they are done, they are to sweep them up and put them back into the container. "In today's Bible Adventure, Peter says we will suffer as Christians for doing good things; and when we do, God will bless us. God doesn't want us to suffer for doing wrong things. When you are done with your pile of blocks, put them back in the container just like you would when you clean up your room. We don't want to suffer for not obeying the teacher!"


 **Disobedient Puppet:** Choose a "person" puppet to have a conversation with before the Bible Adventure. Review last week's lesson by making the puppet disobedient and disrespectful. He doesn't know what the word "submit" means. The conversation could follow a pattern similar to this:


Leader: Welcome to our class.
Puppet: Where is the best seat? I want to sit the closest to see the story pictures. (*Looks at the children in the story circle.*)
Leader: You can sit here and quietly listen to the Bible Adventure.
Puppet: I don't have to be quiet.
Leader: When you are in our classroom, you are to submit to the teachers and kindly do what they have asked you to do.
Puppet: Who says?
Leader: God wants each one of us to submit to the authorities He has placed over us. Last week we learned in the book of First Peter to obey our parents and teachers with a respectful attitude.
Puppet: But I want to do what I want!
Leader: Peter tells us in his letter we are to do what God wants and not what we want. Even our parents need to submit to government rulers and to their bosses at work. It honors God when we submit to others with a polite attitude.
Puppet: Maybe I could try to obey and sit quietly. I do want to know more about God. I do want to know how to love Jesus in my heart. (*Put the puppet on an empty chair in the story circle.*)
Leader: Learning to submit to our parents and teachers honors God. When we follow the classroom rules, it makes it more fun to learn about Jesus and how much He loves us. We are glad you are joining our class today.



Book:

Presentation Ideas

 Color the 1PET03ECGF1, 1PET03ECGF2, 1PET03ECGF3, 1PET03ECGF4 and 1PET03ECGF5 pictures and glue them onto colored construction paper. Show these pictures as you tell the Bible Adventure. Save the pictures for review in future First Peter lessons.

 **1 Peter Lesson #3 Pennant Review Picture: (1PET03ECGF9)** Cut out the GF9 pennant and attach it to the rope or string that has been draped across the corner of the room where the story is told. Review the first two week's pennants from First Peter as well as this week's.



"Three Little Monkeys" Finger Play:

Three little monkeys jumping on the bed, *(Tap three fingers on palm of opposite hand)*
 One fell off and bumped his head. *(Hold side of head)*
 Mama called the doctor and the doctor said, *(Hold phone to ear)*
 "No more monkeys jumping on the bed!" *(Shake finger)*
 Repeat with "Two little monkeys..." and "One little monkey..."
 Were these monkeys obeying the doctor? Does a doctor have authority over us?

Bible Adventure for 2s & 3s

Peter wrote a letter to a group of Christians who were suffering because they loved Jesus. His letter is called First Peter in our Bibles. Peter wanted to encourage these Christians to have victory over suffering. *(Give the theme sign of a "V.")*

(Show the review 1PET01ECGF6 picture.) When a person has a new birth in his spirit, he wants to know more about God. It is like he is "hungry" for God and His Word, which is like spiritual "food." He loves to hear stories from the Bible. He wants to become more holy like God who is holy and good. A person who is born spiritually in his heart will be full of joy. He knows his sins are forgiven and he will live in heaven with Jesus forever.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF2 picture.) There are many people who don't want to have a new birth and live a holy life. They like sin and selfishness, and they don't want to change. These people will sometimes persecute Christians and say bad things about them. They may even try to hurt them. That's what was happening to the Christians in Peter's day. The people who loved Jesus and talked about Him were suffering persecution. Selfish people don't want to know that believing in Jesus is the only way to live in heaven with God.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF3 picture.) Peter told the Christians not to be afraid of suffering persecution. Jesus suffered insults and beatings. He suffered persecution for doing good things. When Christians suffer for trying to do what is right, they will be blessed. God blesses His people with joy when they do the right thing, even though someone might persecute them.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF4 picture. Point to the little boy and make your voice sound sad.) There is a kind of suffering and punishment, though, that comes when we disobey our parents. When we are punished for doing a wrong thing, it hurts, but we deserve it.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF5 picture.) But if you are suffering for trying to do the right thing, don't be afraid of what people might say or do to you. If you obey your parents and other kids tease you for obeying, don't be afraid. Rejoice and be glad. Trust God to take care of you and keep on doing the right thing. God gives victory over suffering! *(Have the children make the "Victory" sign.)*

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for Peter who tells us there is victory over suffering. You have promised to bless us and share Your wonderful joy with us when we suffer persecution. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Bible Adventure for 4s, 5s & K

(Let a child open your Bible at the bookmark that has been placed at First Peter.) What book of the Bible are we learning from? *(Have the children hold up one finger as they say "First Peter.")* The theme of First Peter is "Victory over Suffering." *(Have the children make a "V" with their fingers as they say "Victory over Suffering.")* We're going to talk a little more about suffering today.

(Show the review 1PET01ECGF6 picture.) When a person has a new birth in his spirit, he wants to know more about God. It is like he is "hungry" for God and His Word, which is like spiritual "food." He loves to hear stories from the Bible. He wants to become more holy like God who is holy and good.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF1 picture.) Many people around us have not had a new birth from Jesus, so they don't know about being holy and good. They do bad things, like lying, stealing, and saying mean things about other people. They don't know there is a better way of living. Peter says in First Peter, "Be ready to tell people about Jesus' better life. Tell them about the hope you have of living in heaven with Jesus someday." Some people will want to know more about the new birth and the forgiveness of sin that Jesus has for them.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF2 picture.) But there are many people who don't want to have a new birth or live a holy life. They like sin and selfishness, and they don't want to change. These people will sometimes persecute Christians and say bad things about them and even try to hurt them. That's what was happening to the Christians in Peter's day. The people who loved Jesus and talked about Him were suffering persecution for saying that believing in Jesus is the only way to live in heaven with God.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF3 picture.) Peter said, "Don't be afraid of suffering persecution. Jesus suffered insults and beatings, and He never did one sinful thing His whole life. He suffered persecution

for doing good things.” Jesus told His disciples, “If I suffer persecution, you will, too. Anyone who follows Me will suffer persecution.”

Peter wrote, “Don’t be afraid of suffering. If you suffer for trying to do what is right, you will be blessed.” Blessed means joyful. God blesses His people with joy when they do the right thing even though someone might persecute them.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF4 picture.) Now there is a kind of suffering and punishment that comes when we disobey and do the wrong thing. When we are punished for doing a bad thing, it hurts, but we deserve it. Peter says, “If you suffer, don’t let it be for sins you have done, like disobeying or trying to hurt someone. That is nothing to be glad about. But if you suffer for trying to do the right thing, then you can rejoice and be glad because God will bless you even though there may be suffering.

(Show the 1PET03ECGF5 picture.) “If you are suffering for trying to do the right thing, don’t be afraid of what people might say or do to you. If you obey your parents and other kids tease you or make fun of you for submitting to the authorities over you, don’t be afraid. Rejoice and be glad. Trust God to take care of you and keep on doing the right thing. God gives victory over suffering.” (Have the children make the “V” sign for “Victory.”)

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for Peter who tells us there is victory over suffering. We can rejoice and be glad even though we might suffer persecution because You have promised to bless us and share Your wonderful joy with us. In Jesus name I pray, amen.

Aim Questions

Aim Questions for 2s & 3s:

1. **How can we remember the theme of the book First Peter?** (*Hold up your fingers in the “Victory over Suffering” position.*)
2. **Who sometimes suffers for doing what is right just because they love Jesus and want to obey Him?** (*Christians, those who have had a new birth*)
3. **Who blesses God’s people with joy when they do the right thing, even though they might have to suffer?** (*God*)

Aim Questions for 4s & 5s:

1. **What is the name of the book of the Bible we learned from today, and what is the theme?** (*1 Peter; “Victory over Suffering”*)
2. **Do Christians suffer punishment when they disobey and do something wrong?** (*Yes. It is important to learn to obey.*)
3. **Do Christians sometimes suffer persecution even though they are obeying and doing the right thing?** (*Yes. Jesus suffered for us, and suffering will come to His followers, too.*)
4. **What happens when we suffer for doing the right thing?** (*God blesses us with joy and hope.*)



Look:

- Aim Questions:** Write the Aim Questions on paper and place them in a bag or sock along with several blank pieces of paper. Have a child bravely try to pull a question from the bag to be answered. If he draws a blank card, he sits down and lets someone else try to draw for a question.
- Aim Questions #2:** If you used the puppet before the Bible Adventure, tuck the Aim Questions in his folded arms and have each child pull their question from the puppet.
- Snack Suggestion:** Serve alphabet cookies or cereal. “When a person has a new birth in his spirit, he becomes hungry for God’s words from the Bible. Let’s make some Bible words with the letters we have today.” Try to form the words God, love, hope, birth, word, etc.
- Transition Idea:** Show your hand signal for “Victory over Suffering” as you go down the hall.
- “Victory over Suffering” Booklet: (1PET03ECGF11, 1PET03ECGF12, and 1PET03ECGF13)** Copy a GF11 page for each child and fold it into fourths to make a booklet. Explain to the children what is happening on each page as they color their booklets. Let the children color and add two GF13 Bible stickers—one to the first page and one to the Bible on the second page—and a GF12 First Peter 2:13 Memory Verse to the fourth page.

- Memory Verse Review:** Bring some bells, a tambourine and a shaker to hand out among the children. The musicians can stand in front of the group while singing the Memory Verse Song. Repeat the verse several times until everyone has had a turn at being a musician. "In today's Bible Adventure, we learned that God blesses His people with joy. Let's use some instruments while we sing our Memory Verse Song. The instruments, along with our voices, make it sound so joyful!"
- Victory March: (1PET03ECGF9 or 1PET03ECGF10)** Copy the GF9 pennant or GF10 "V" (or use both) on card stock paper, cut out, and let the children color their pictures as you talk about what is happening in the pictures. Then tape a straw to the pennant or the "V." Have the children line up and march around the room while singing "I Have a Living Hope" and waving their banners.
- Faith Walk:** Let the children take turns being blindfolded and leading one another around. Make a simple obstacle course (or two) for the blindfolded child and explain that he must obey the instructions of the un-blindfolded child in order to know which way to go. Have the class encourage the people stepping over, around, and under any obstacles. "We learn to trust people who care about us and help us. We trust God because He cares the most and always helps us when we trust Him." If there is a slow time, sing "Trust and Obey" softly as the child is being led.
- "Jesus Is the Way to Heaven" Activity:** Sing the following verse to "London Bridge" and have the children pass under two leaders' raised arms. Lower the arms on the last line and ask the child what he can do to follow Jesus. What can he do to honor God? Repeat until interest wanes.
- Jesus is the way to heaven,
Way to heaven, way to heaven.
Jesus is the way to heaven,
I will follow Him!
- Suffering Upset: (1PET03ECGF14 and 1PET03ECGF15)** Play the game like "Fruit Basket Upset." Have the children sit on chairs in a circle. Give each child one picture from either the GF14 or GF15 pages. There should be four groups of children holding different pictures. Tell the children that when you call the name of their picture (Jesus suffering persecution, a boy experiencing the joy of new birth, a girl with a Bible suffering persecution, and a girl being treated meanly on the playground), they have to move to another chair. When you say "Victory over Suffering," all the children must move to another chair in the circle. "Jesus suffered persecution so that we could have the joy of a new spiritual birth. Jesus gives us joy when we are treated badly by others for doing what is right."
- ④ **"Persecution or Punishment?" Pictures:** Cut out pictures from newspapers, magazines or books (or use some of the curriculum pictures) that show both persecution and just punishment. Seat the children on the floor facing the teacher. As the teacher holds up a picture, ask "Is this person suffering persecution for doing something right or is he/she being punished for doing something wrong?" Talk about each picture and emphasize the difference between being punished and suffering persecution.

Songs:

- 1 Peter 1:3 Memory Verse Song** (tune: "Frere Jacques")
He has gi-ven us new birth
Into a living hope, into a living hope.
Fi-irst Peter one, three. Fi-irst Peter one, three.
Vic-to-ry! Vic-to-ry!
- I Have a Living Hope**
I have a living hope. (echo)
I have a future. (echo)
God has a plan for me (echo)
Of this I'm sure; of this I'm sure.
- I have a vic-to-ry, (echo)
Vic'try over suffering. (echo)
God has a ne-ew birth (echo)
Of this I'm sure; of this I'm sure.

Sometimes I Suffer (tune: "B-I-N-G-O")

Sometimes I suffer punishment
When I have disobey-ed.
Then I'm very sad; then I'm very sad; then I'm very sad
Because I disobey-ed.

Sometimes I suffer persecution
Though I am obeying.
Then I'm very glad; then I'm very glad; then I'm very glad.
God helps me keep obeying.

1 Peter 2:13 Memory Verse Song (tune: "Good News! Chariots Are Coming")

Submit (echo) for the Lord's sake.
Submit (echo) for the Lord's sake.
Submit (echo) for the Lord's sake.
First Peter two, thirteen.

Jesus Is the Way to Heaven (tune: "London Bridges")

Jesus is the way to heaven,
Way to heaven, way to heaven.
Jesus is the way to heaven,
Jesus gives a new birth.

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Trust and Obey Chorus

Trust and obey.
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.



Took:

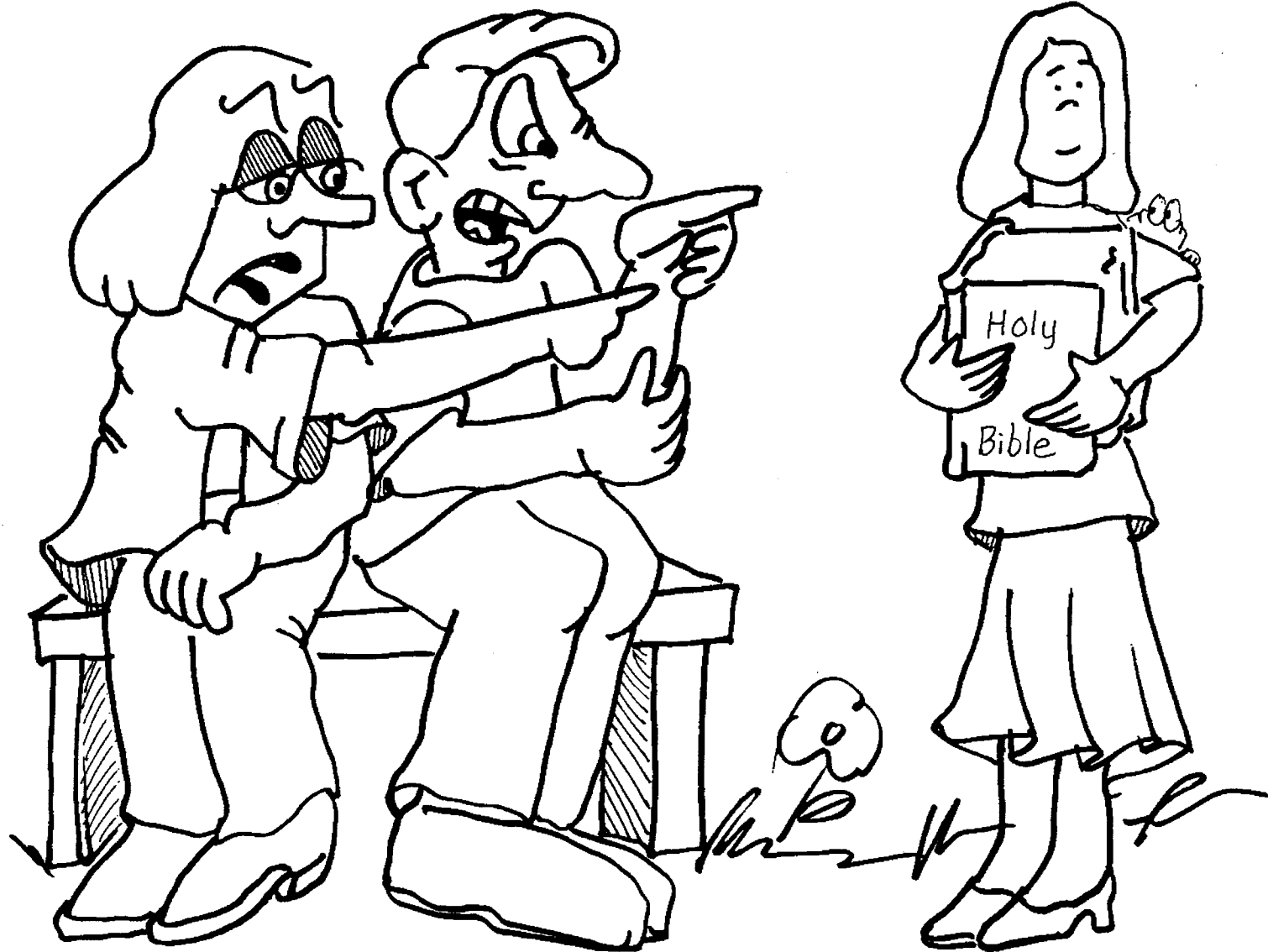
Rhythm Bells: (1PET03ECGF16) Materials needed: Clothespins (the kind with round heads); 2 large bells for each child; GF16 words; glue; 10" lengths of kite string, yarn or twine that will thread through the bells. Glue the GF16 words carefully around the bottom of the clothespin. Help the children string the bells. Wrap the string tightly around the head of the clothespin two or three times and knot securely. A drop of glue can be applied to each knot or the string can go through the bells more than once to make it stronger. The rhythm bells can be used to sing the Memory Verse Song before leaving class.

Suffering Persecution Activity Page: (1PET03ECGF8) Give each child a GF8 page and talk about what is happening in the pictures as the children color their pages. Suffering is occurring in four of the six pictures. Three of the pictures are from today's Bible Adventure, so the children should be able to tell you which people are suffering persecution. Let the children decide whether the father is angry because the boy disobeyed or whether the boy did nothing wrong and is suffering persecution for trying to do right.

Preschool Page for Parents: (1PET03ECPPP) Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the Memory Verse Song.



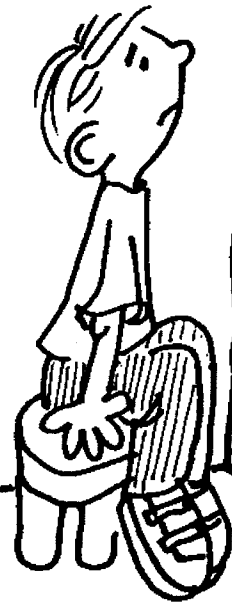
Many people don't know about Jesus and the new birth He gives.



Christians sometimes suffer persecution for talking about Jesus' new birth.



Jesus suffered persecution even though He never did one thing wrong.



We all have suffered punishment for doing something wrong.
We should not be glad about that kind of suffering.



Christians can have victory over suffering when they try to do the right thing.

If you suffer, let
it be for trying
to do right,
not for sins
you have done.

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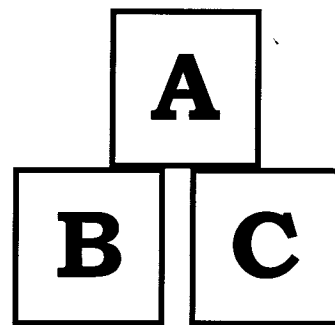
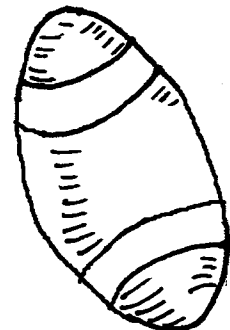
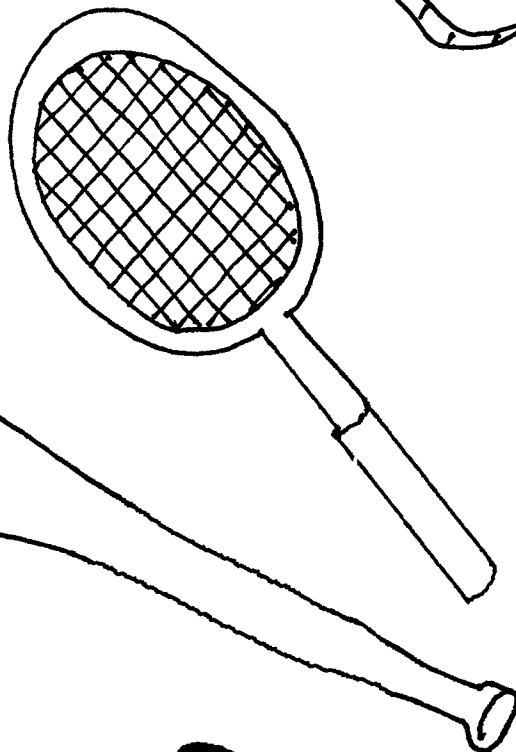
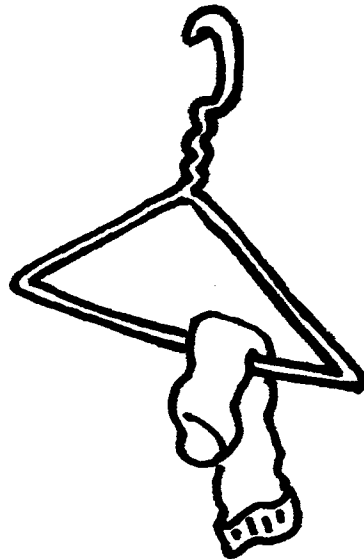
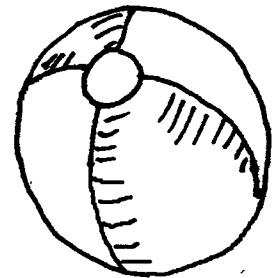
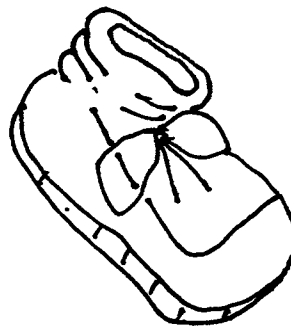
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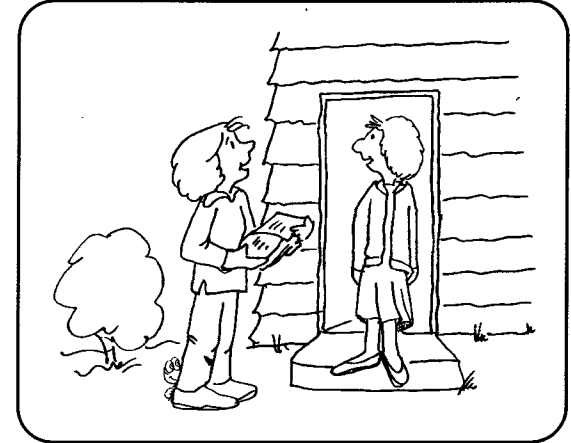
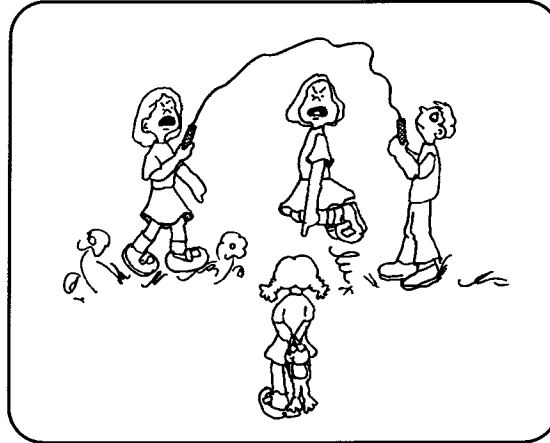
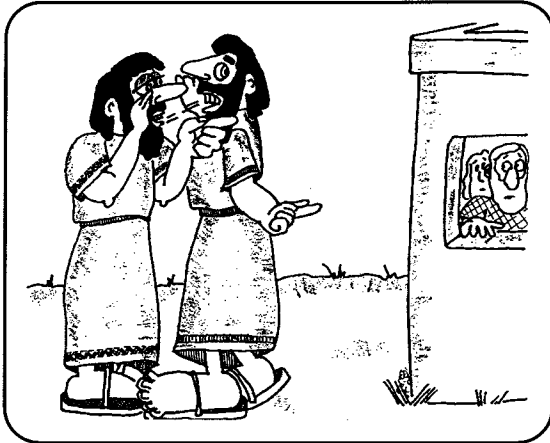
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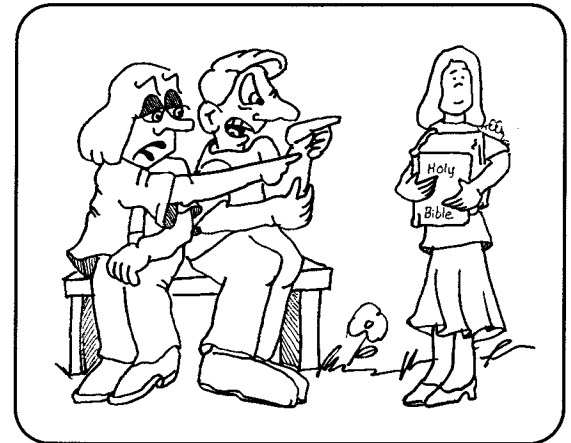
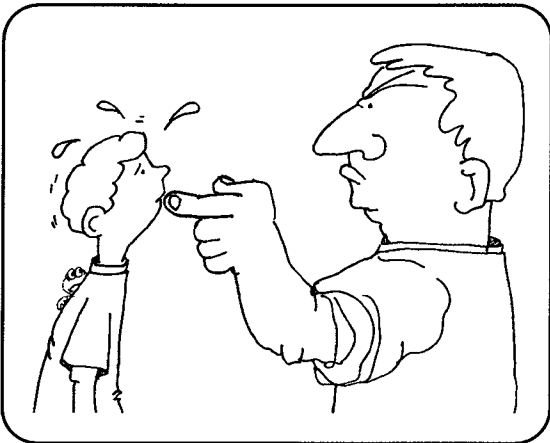
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Circle the pictures that show people suffering persecution even though they have done nothing wrong.



1 Peter Theme: Victory over Suffering



Color the pictures that show people having victory over suffering.
(In some pictures, we don't know the whole story. Talk about what might be happening.)

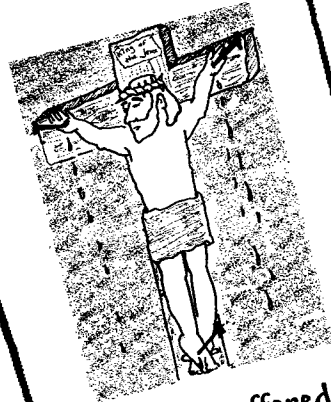
1 Peter Lesson 3 Pennant Picture



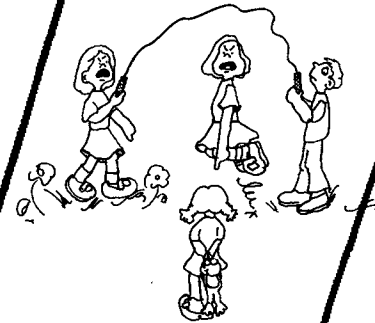
1 Peter



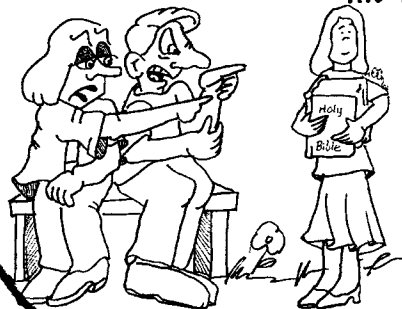
Victory over Suffering



Jesus suffered
persecution even
though he did
nothing wrong.

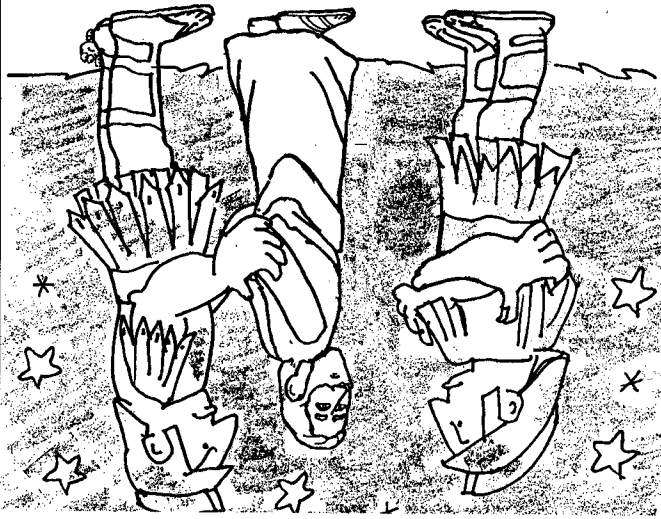


Jesus' followers will
suffer persecution
for trying to do
the right thing.



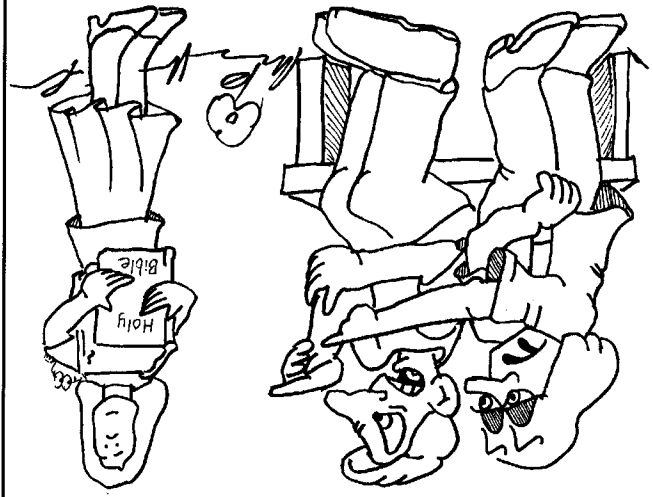
3.

Jesus suffered persecution even though he never did one thing wrong.



2.

Christians sometimes suffer persecution for talking about Jesus' new birth.



1 Peter Theme: Victory over Suffering



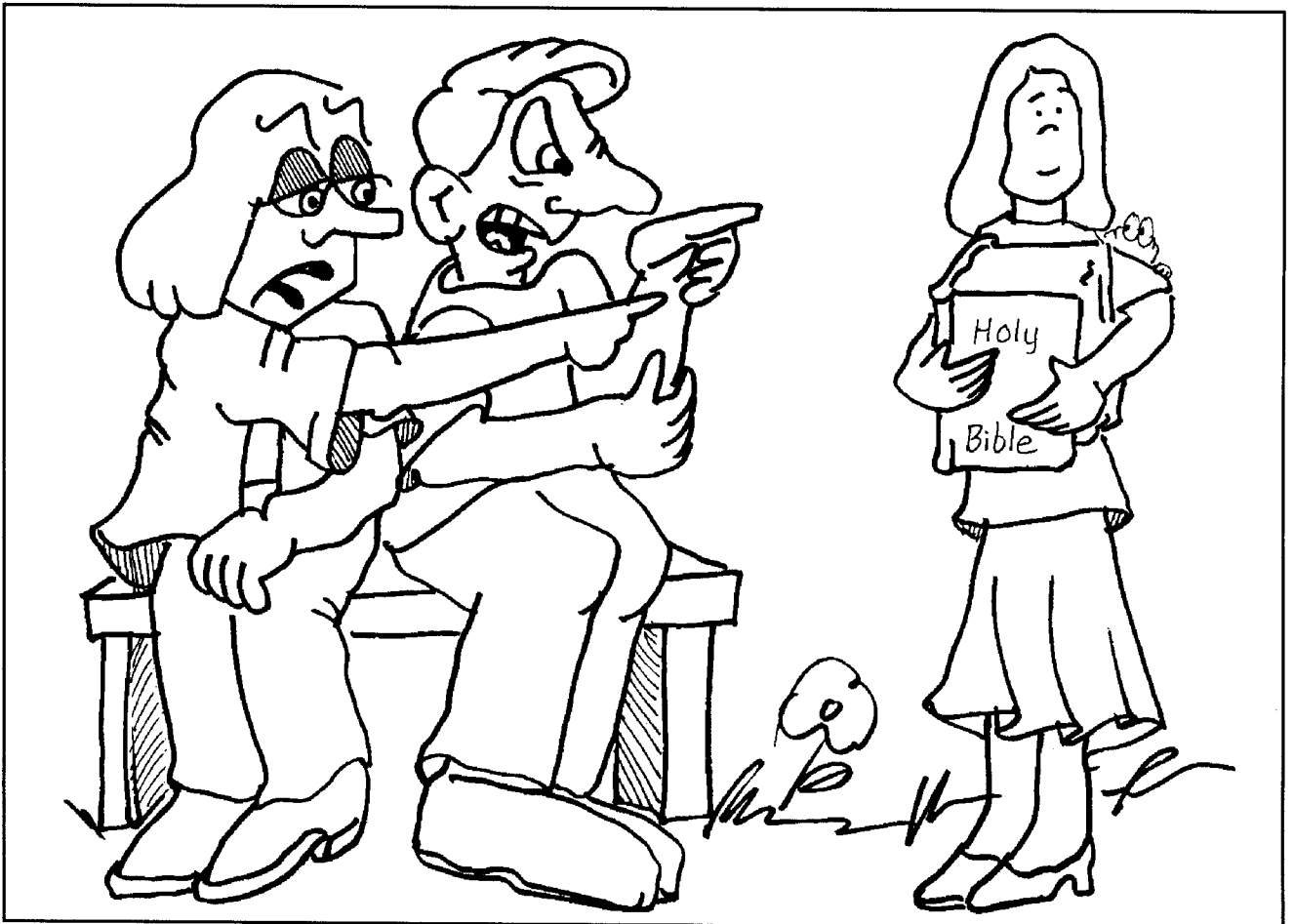
1 Peter says to tell people about Jesus and the new birth He gives.

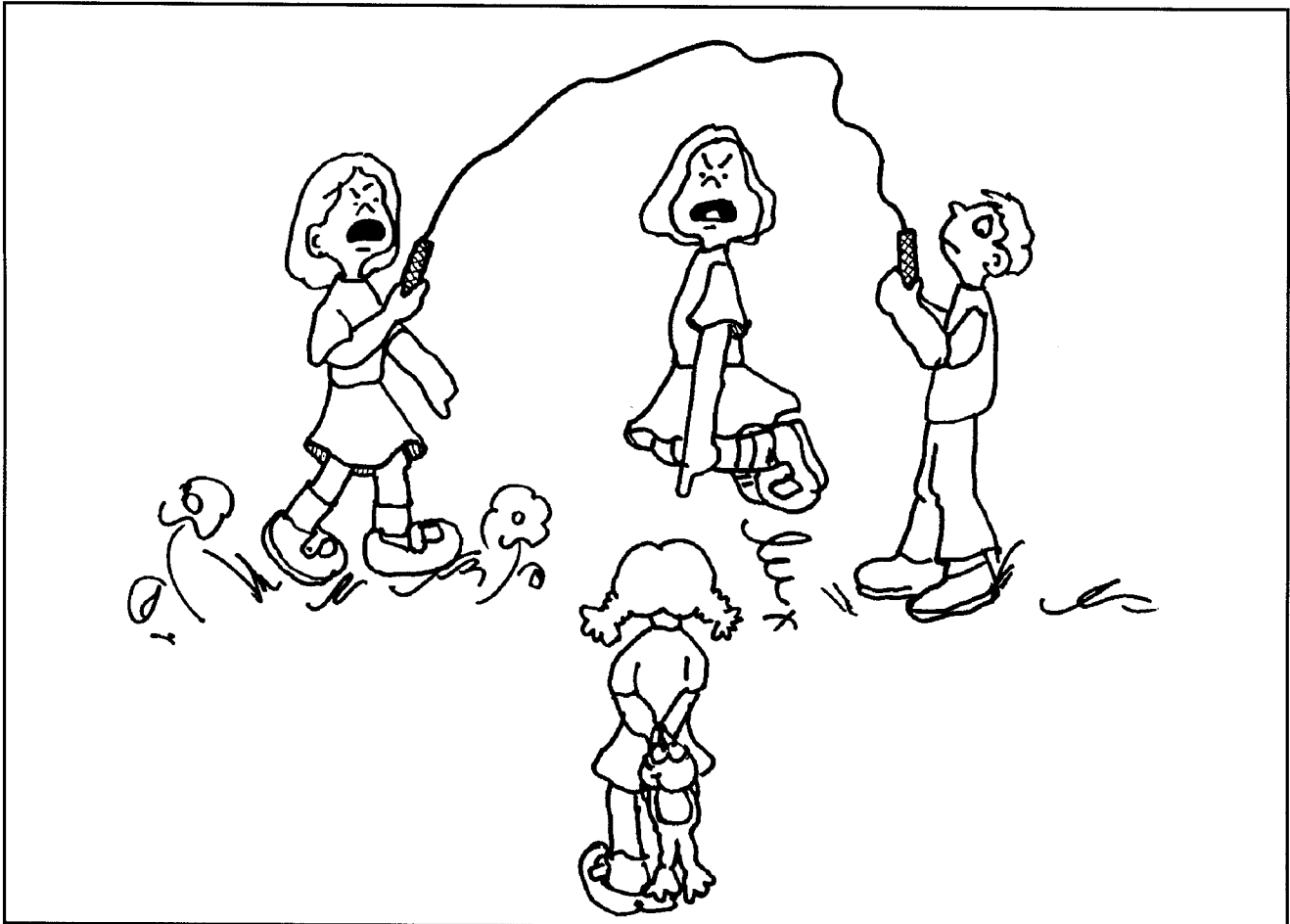
1.

If we are punished for doing wrong, we deserve it. Peter says that there is a suffering that comes to Christians even though they are doing what is right.

4.







May 18, 2003
1 Peter 3:13 - 4:19



This is what I learned today!

Today we learned that Christians don't need to be afraid of suffering for doing good. Peter wrote that people who don't have a second birth in their hearts will sometimes persecute Christians. They might say bad things about them and even try to hurt them. Peter told the Christians to not be afraid of suffering persecution for doing what is right. God blesses His people with joy when they do the right thing. When we are punished for doing a bad thing, we deserve it. That is nothing to be glad about. But if we suffer for trying to do the right thing, then we can be glad because God will bless us.

1 Peter Memory Verse

Submit (yourselves) for the
Lord's sake to every authority.

1 Peter 2:13

Suffering Persecution



Show your child the two pictures on the back side of this page. Explain the difference between suffering punishment for doing something wrong or disobeying (which feels like suffering, but is not the kind of suffering that we should be glad about) and suffering persecution for doing what is right, like telling people about Jesus.

Point to the picture of the boy in his room as you sing the first verse of the song below (or listen to the song on the children's CD). Point to the girl in the second picture who is suffering persecution, but will have God's blessing and joy, as you sing the second verse of the song below.

Sometimes I Suffer

(tune: "B-I-N-G-O")

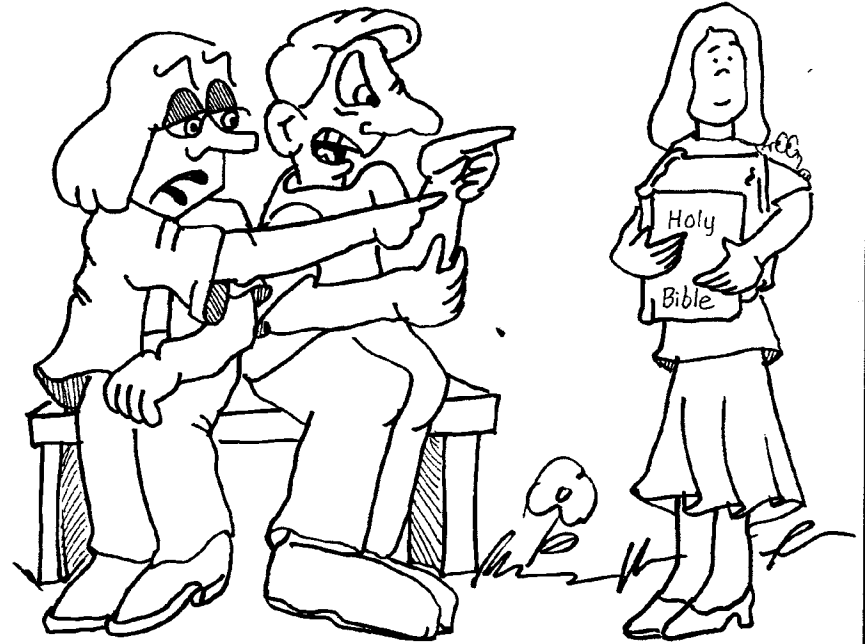
Sometimes I suffer punishment
When I have disobey-ed.
Then I'm very sad; then I'm very sad;
Then I'm very sad
Because I disobey-ed.

Sometimes I suffer persecution
Though I am obeying.
Then I'm very glad; then I'm very glad;
Then I'm very glad.
God helps me do the right thing.

* For tunes to songs, ask about the preschool CD.



This boy is suffering punishment
for doing what is wrong--
disobeying his parents.



This girl is suffering persecution for
doing what is right--reading her Bible.

1 Peter tells us that God gives joy and blessing when we
suffer persecution for doing what is right.