

FOR CHILDREN:

Have you ever spent a long time working on a puzzle only to realize at the end that there was one missing piece? How frustrating! Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. God designed the church family to be like a puzzle. He has created each person unique, with different personalities and abilities. Some are good at speaking, while others are good at listening, or fixing things, or teaching, or caring... There are so many gifts God has given different people! And like every piece is needed in a puzzle to make it complete, so the church family is best when each person shares their unique gift. In what ways do you like to give to your church family?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

Weekly Affirmation:

**TODAY I WILL LOVE
FERVENTLY!**

FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

1 Peter 3:15-16. For Peter's Christian audience, the belief that Jesus alone was King was the main reason for the persecution they faced. In the Greek, defending our faith is a clause that is dependent on sanctifying Christ as Lord. So, the idea is: now that Jesus is our Master (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*), we have a responsibility to stand firm in our faith, ready to explain to those who question us why we believe it. The Greek brings to mind a reasoned defense, as in a court case. But our preparation is not a cold, emotionless study of doctrine, but a warm confidence that comes from experiencing the joy and power of a right relationship with God the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. Furthermore, we defend our belief with "gentleness and respect." Yet while we are to be winsome in our interactions with others, here the main focus of our humility and reverence is directed toward the Lord. The idea is that we are to speak to others as if speaking to Jesus. Tip: This gets easier the more time we spend in prayer!

FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. Christians are to expect undeserved suffering as part of following Christ. But, how are we to maintain an attitude of rejoicing while suffering? Christ gives us one example in Hebrews 12:2, He kept His focus on future glory. If we suffer for and with Jesus now, we can rejoice that we will receive glory with Him at the time of His return (*Rom. 8:17*). But Peter also says that suffering now brings present blessing (v.14). It is one of many paradoxes of our faith; to suffer reproach for bearing the name of Christ is not a misfortune, but a privilege! It is a blessing to know that we are on Christ's side, that Holy Spirit is with us!

Peter's point for this part of his letter is that Christians continue to do the right thing in the midst of suffering, entrusting themselves to their Faithful Creator. "Entrust" in the Greek is a banking term; used for leaving money with a trusted friend. When we endure troubles with Christ-like trust, we live out our belief that He who made us will faithfully take care of us and see us through to victory, glory, and perfect holiness in the new creation. As you encounter suffering in life, share your heart with the Lord, and take comfort and joy that you are in His care.

OCTOBER 2025 GROWTH GOALS

- ☐ Read the Book of 1 Peter
- ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on 1 Peter (available on the website).
- ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ☐ Invite at least one person to Sunday assembly or Bible Study.