

GRADES
K-6

BE PERSISTENT LIKE DISCIPLE PETER

Biblical Virtues

Printable Lesson Kit



M  GHTY MESSAGES

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BE PERSISTENT LIKE DISCIPLE PETER

LESSON OVERVIEW

BE PERSISTENT LIKE DISCIPLE PETER

Peter the disciple of Jesus, also known as Simon Peter, was often in trouble. He would misunderstand Jesus, and Jesus would correct him. Peter was whimsical, impulsive, and given to outbursts. But he utterly loved Jesus, and his faith was extraordinary. If we want to be like Peter the disciple, we need to keep going, even when we are discouraged and can't get things right at first. Instead of being weighted down with self-doubt and a lack of confidence, we should believe God's promises and keep going.

How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Printable Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- White printer paper (craft & game)
- Colored paper (game)
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

BE PERSISTENT LIKE DISCIPLE PETER

SCRIPTURE & LESSON

**PASSAGE (NIV): VARIOUS SCRIPTURES FROM
THE GOSPELS CONCERNING PETER**

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation),
or read from your chosen Bible translation:



Matthew 14:25-30

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ ... Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Luke 22:49-51

⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him. [The ‘follower’ above is confirmed in other gospels to have been Peter.]

Matthew 16:15-18

¹⁵ “But what about you?” [Jesus] asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Questions for Children

1. The passages we just read are only a few of those mentioning Simon Peter. In the first one, Simon Peter asked Jesus if he could walk on the water to where Jesus was. What happened? *He got distracted by the wind and waves and had to ask for help.*

2. In the second one, it is a little harder to see what Peter did wrong. He certainly got a tongue lashing for his comment. Jesus told Peter he would have to die and be resurrected in Jerusalem. Peter said he would not allow anyone to kill Jesus. Jesus called him “Satan.” Can you guess what was going on? *Jesus knew it was God’s will for him to be a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Peter just didn’t have a big enough vision to see this yet. When he argued, Jesus was really put to the test, because it is hard to think of dying as a sacrifice. He felt that Peter was pushing him, trying to get him into a state of denial.*

3. In the passage that took place at Jesus’ arrest, we get to see an impulsive side of Peter. Other gospels confirm that he was the man who cut off the servant’s ear. He was trying to protect Jesus, but he ended up doing the wrong thing yet again. What did Jesus do in response about the injured man’s ear? He healed the man. The last scripture shows the other side of Peter. He was the first of the disciples, once they were gathered and working together, to state aloud that Jesus was the Messiah. What did Jesus promise him? *That Peter would be the rock upon which he would build the church. He promised him a very important job in ushering in the Kingdom of God.*



TEACHER’S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Have you ever had a time in your life that was extremely hard, and you wanted changes so badly? Have you ever had a time when you kept getting in trouble, even though you weren’t trying to be bad? If so, you have things in common with one of Jesus’ favorite disciples, Peter.

Peter did a lot of things wrong. Those we looked at today are not the only examples. A very famous one is missing. Peter’s second-most well-known story in the gospels was denying his relationship with Jesus after Jesus was arrested. He swore he didn’t know Jesus, and the betrayal was so hurtful to the Lord that it was recorded in three gospels.

But Peter also had incredible faith. His most well-known story has to do with when Jesus called Peter “the rock.” Also, he was one of only three disciples that Jesus let into the room when he raised a little girl from the dead. Nobody but Peter, John, and his older brother James, had enough faith. Second, Peter, James, and John were the only three disciples asked to be present at the Transfiguration. That is where Jesus met on a mountaintop with Moses and Elijah.

Peter denying Jesus three times in one night and swearing to it is a true betrayal. It is very similar to what Judas did. Judas was another disciple who told the authorities where they could find Jesus in order to arrest him. He was given 30 pieces of silver for the betrayal. Peter wept bitterly over his bad choices after the third betrayal. Judas tried to give the silver back. However, Peter kept on loving Jesus and believing in Jesus’ ability to run things—and he forgave himself for his shortcomings. Judas committed suicide, which means to take your own life.

We have choices as followers of Jesus. We can be Peters and believe we are still valuable to God. Or we can be Judases, believing there is no hope for us. Of course, we are going to mess up, but that doesn’t mean we should GIVE up. When life presents us with the biggest struggles, we shouldn’t turn away from God or say that he doesn’t exist. We shouldn’t complain and try to blame people’s bad behavior on God.

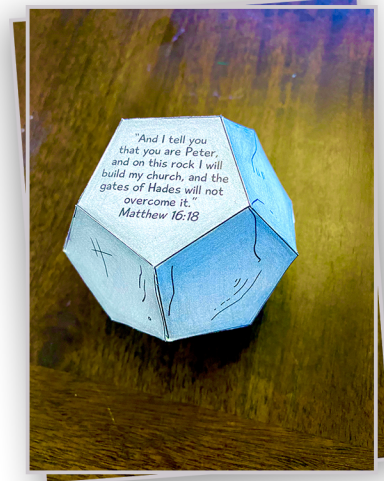
To be like Peter, we accept that we are going to make mistakes, and we keep on going, in victory, in the love and guidance that comes from Jesus in heaven.





MATERIALS:

- Paper Rock Printable Craft (one page)
- White Cardstock or White Paper
- Coloring Utensils
- Scissors
- Stick Glue

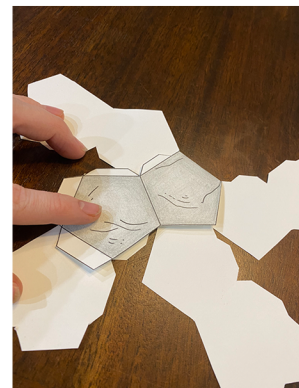
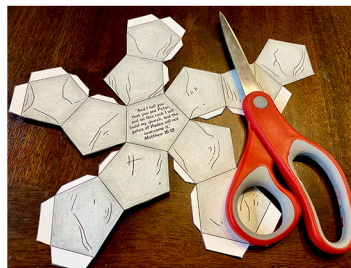
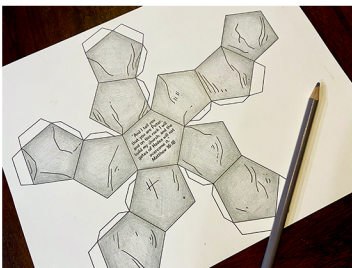


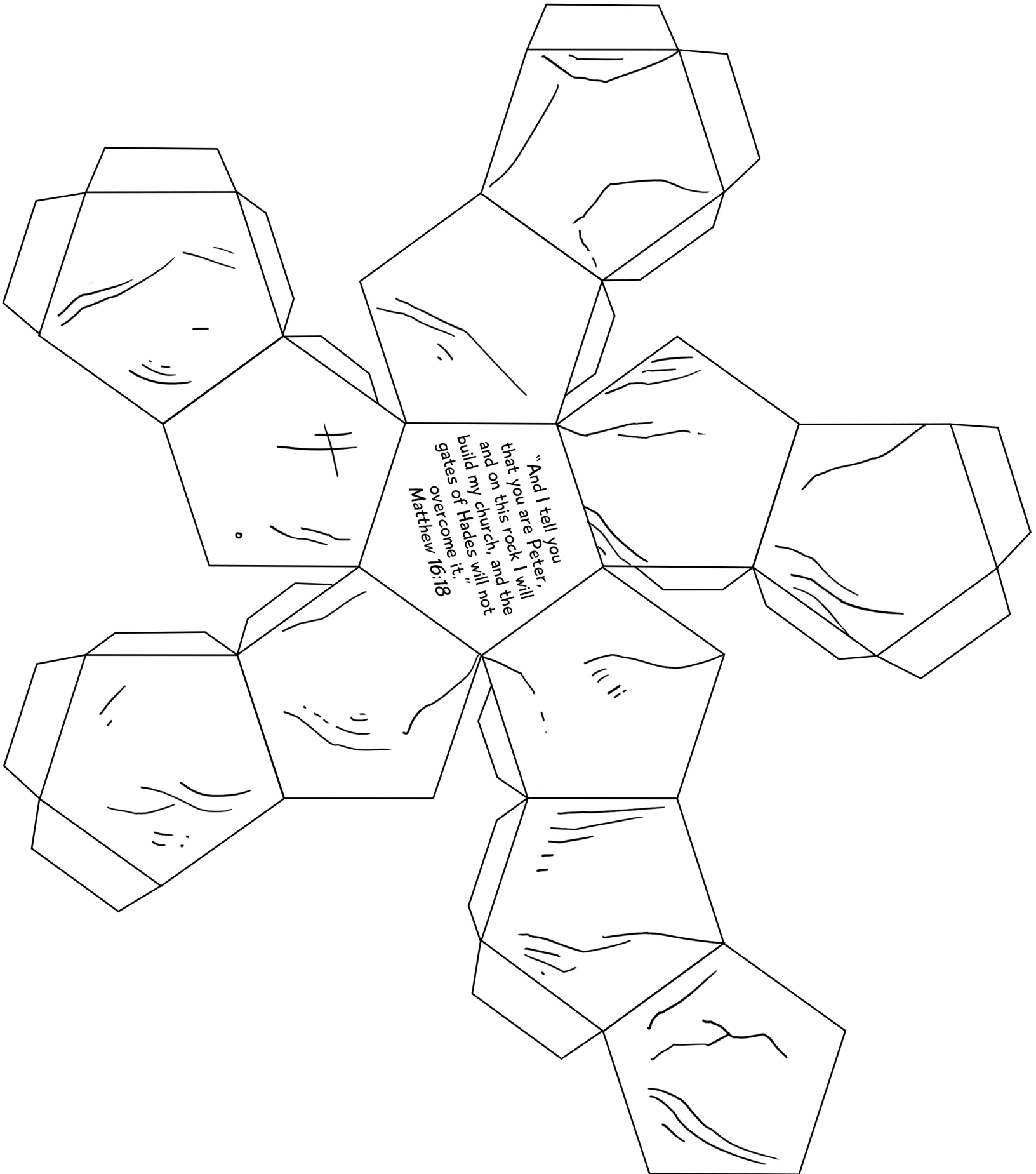
PREPARATION:

- Print one copy of Paper Rock Printable Craft for each student

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Color pages as desired
2. Carefully cut out paper rock
3. Fold rock along all lines and tabs
4. Beginning with one of the small tabs closest to scripture center, start gluing tabs to adjacent piece. Move to next tab and repeat to complete first layer. Then repeat with second layer of tabs
5. As you move to the third layer, space will get tight. Make sure each piece is glued securely before moving on to the next one, holding for 5-10 seconds after each piece is glued together
6. Glue final piece to remaining tabs to complete paper rock





"And I tell you
that you are Peter,
and on this rock, and the
gates of Hades will not
overcome it."
Matthew 16:18

PETER'S PERSEVERANCE PAPER TOSS

This game of tag will reinforce the message of Peter's life, that it's better to keep on than to quit when the going gets rough.



MATERIALS:

- White printer paper
- Colored paper



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. If possible, divide the class into two even teams and have each team stand on their own side of the room.
2. Give Team A a stack of colored paper and Team B a stack of white paper.
3. Have teams crumble their papers into balls and place them in a pile in the center of their side of the room.
4. Have students stand back against the wall of their side of the room.
5. When you say "Go!" students will begin to throw their papers to their opponent's side of the room.
6. If a student on Team A notices white wads of paper on their side of the room, they will have to throw them back to Team B's side of the room and vice versa for Team B.
7. At the end of three minutes, the team who has more of their opponents' papers on their side loses.

OBJECTIVE

Get as many of their pieces of paper on the other side of the room while keeping their side free of their opponents' pieces of paper.

CLOSING:

This game is a lot like the life of Peter, and a lot like our lives can be at times. Hold up a balled-up colored sheet and a balled-up white sheet. Think of Team A symbolizing mistakes we make, and Team B symbolizing good things we do. We make mistakes that end up in the middle of situations we're trying to solve. They mix in with the good things, and that's just life!

But we keep going, not quitting, not doubting God, even when our abilities are misguided or klutzy. We keep hurling the bad stuff back out and welcoming the good stuff in. Even when we're out of breath, as you are now!



WORD SEARCH

Instructions:

Peter was one of Jesus' favorite disciples. Yet Peter was corrected by the Lord more often than any other disciple. Jesus loved him, not because he was perfect, but because of Peter's dedication. Below are some reasons Jesus corrected him. Which of these have YOU done? Find them in the puzzle.

K	D	E	F	A	I	L	U	R	E	S	L	X	C	T	M
D	I	S	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	M	E	N	T	K	I
M	A	A	U	V	I	O	L	E	N	C	E	I	P	U	S
I	G	G	B	D	H	K	B	Y	O	U	E	U	N	O	U
D	M	G	I	A	M	P	M	N	L	O	X	S	Q	V	N
X	C	P	G	N	N	Q	E	P	Y	F	R	G	U	C	D
Q	I	O	E	R	X	D	X	N	I	E	H	C	D	C	E
N	H	Q	V	T	O	W	O	I	N	G	Z	Q	X	P	R
M	R	D	Z	E	U	B	J	N	G	Y	Q	H	Y	E	S
W	O	G	I	A	R	O	L	J	M	G	U	K	K	T	T
Z	M	K	D	U	U	S	U	U	J	E	U	I	P	U	A
E	X	W	K	O	E	R	P	S	R	G	N	Y	Y	L	N
Z	V	G	H	D	U	Z	A	E	N	T	U	T	O	A	D
M	F	W	R	M	Y	B	U	E	A	E	I	P	H	N	I
I	Z	U	O	K	S	M	T	U	P	K	S	N	W	C	N
C	T	B	L	U	S	T	E	R	I	G	J	S	G	E	G

Words to Find:

DOUBT
OVERSPEAK
LYING
VIOLENCE

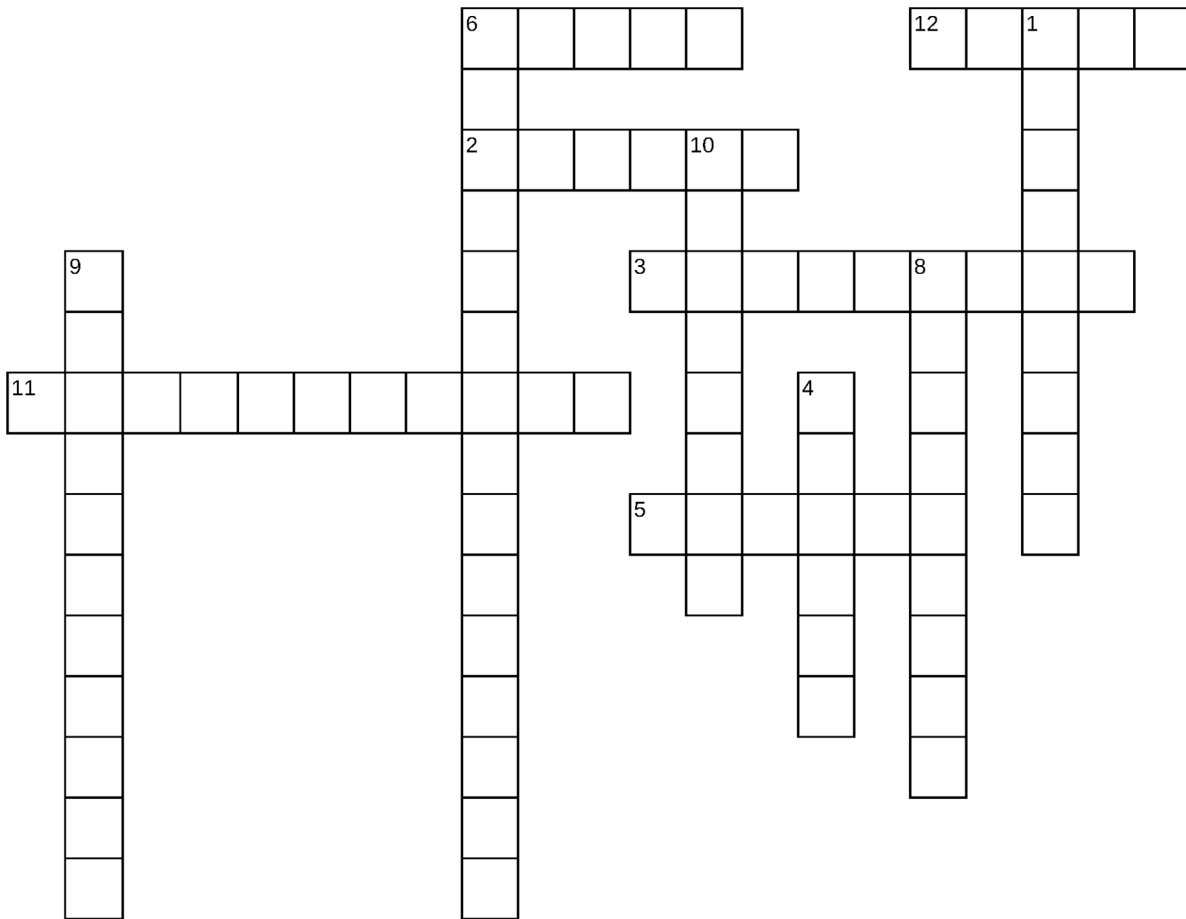
MISUNDERSTANDING
PETULANCE
DISCOURAGEMENT
ABANDONMENT

FAILURES
IMPETUOUSNESS
BLURTING
BLUSTER



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Instructions: Use your At-A-Glance sheet, All the Facts about Peter, to fill in the answers to the crossword below.



Across

- 2. Name of Peter’s younger brother, also a disciple
- 3. Peter was the first of these men to hear Jesus say, “Follow me!”
- 5. A word that means to correct wrong behavior
- 6. Number of times Peter denied knowing Jesus during the Lord’s trial
- 11. Peter suffered this type of death as a martyr.
- 12. A modern-day St. Peter’s Church is in this city

Down

- 1. Peter’s occupation before meeting Jesus
- 4. Upon this rock I will build my _____
- 6. The meeting between Jesus, Moses, and Elijah
- 8. Day in which Peter gave his first sermon
- 9. When he made mistakes, Peter was able to accept this from God
- 10. Peter wrote two of these in the New Testament

Below are some important facts about Peter the Apostle. They show his mistakes as well as his persistence, faith, and love of Jesus.

FACT #1

Peter and his younger brother Andrew were fishermen near Bethsaida before meeting Jesus.

FACT #2

Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus in Bethsaida.

FACT #3

Peter was allegedly the first disciple to whom Jesus said his famous words, "Follow me!"

FACT #4

Jesus often rebuked Peter for not understanding his messages. But they had a very close relationship.

FACT #5

Peter was also the disciple to whom Jesus pointed and said, "Upon this rock I will build my church."

FACT #6

Peter was one of three disciples allowed to witness the Transfiguration on the top of Mount Hermon, where Jesus met Moses and Elijah.

FACT #7

He is the disciple who denied Jesus three times after his arrest, which the Lord had predicted at the Last Supper earlier that night.

FACT #8

Peter gave his first Christian sermon on the Day of Pentecost, showing his ability to forgive himself, accept God's forgiveness and move on.

FACT #9

Peter wrote two epistles. 1 Peter is thought to have been written in 64 AD, and 2 Peter in 68 AD. He wrote 1 Peter to encourage Christians who were suffering under great persecution. He wrote 2 Peter to prevent false teaching as well as to encourage.

FACT #10

Peter wrote the letters during Nero's reign. Nero was the Roman Emperor in the 60s AD, and he hated Christianity. He eventually did horrible things like throw Christians to lions to be eaten. Peter was addressing believers with encouragement to stay the course with Jesus, no matter what happened.

FACT #11

Peter was crucified in death. He asked to be martyred in some other way, as he did not feel worthy to die in the same way as the Lord Jesus. Hence, his persecutors crucified him upside-down.

FACT #12

St. Peter's Church is in Jaffa, near the Mediterranean Sea, on the site where tradition says Peter had a vision. It can still be visited today.



Scriptures to Read: Matthew 14:25-30, Matthew 16:21-23, Luke 22:49-51, Matthew 16:15-18



This Week We Learned About ...

...God's forgiveness by looking at the ministry of his disciple Peter. Peter, also known as Simon Peter, was often in trouble. He would misunderstand Jesus, and Jesus would correct him. Peter was whimsical, impulsive, and given to outbursts. But he utterly loved Jesus, and his faith was extraordinary. If we want to be like Peter the disciple, we need to keep going, even when we are discouraged and can't get things right at first. Instead of being weighted down with self-doubt and a lack of confidence, we should believe God's promises and keep going.



✓ Questions for Kids:

1. When Peter saw Jesus on walking on the water what did he ask?
A. He asked Jesus to call him out onto the water.
2. Jesus call Peter the _____ on which the church would be built. **A. Rock**
3. What did Peter exclaim when Jesus spoke of his own death? **A. "Never Lord!"**

✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

Peter was very bold and often made mistakes, but Jesus loved him anyway. He also often used Peter's mistakes as a chance to teach. Think of some mistakes you have made that taught you new things. What were the situations and what did you learn?

Peter was known for being brave, but not always for thinking things through before he took action. God wants us to be courageous and wise. Why do you think it's wise to think before you act? Tell some stories about real life experiences you've had where thinking before acting was necessary.



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9



"But what about you?" [Jesus] asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." **Matthew 16:15-16**



Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." **Matthew 16:17-18**

BE PERSISTENT LIKE DISCIPLE PETER

QUIZ

Instructions: Write out the scripture, then answer the journal question below. Find the answers to the mini-puzzles, and then draw the picture, answering the question.

Write out the following Bible verse: **Matthew 16:18**

Answer: "Hell," or the forces of darkness, have certainly come against the church. What are some ways your church or certain members have been persecuted, falsely accused, made fun of, or shamed about a belief in Jesus?

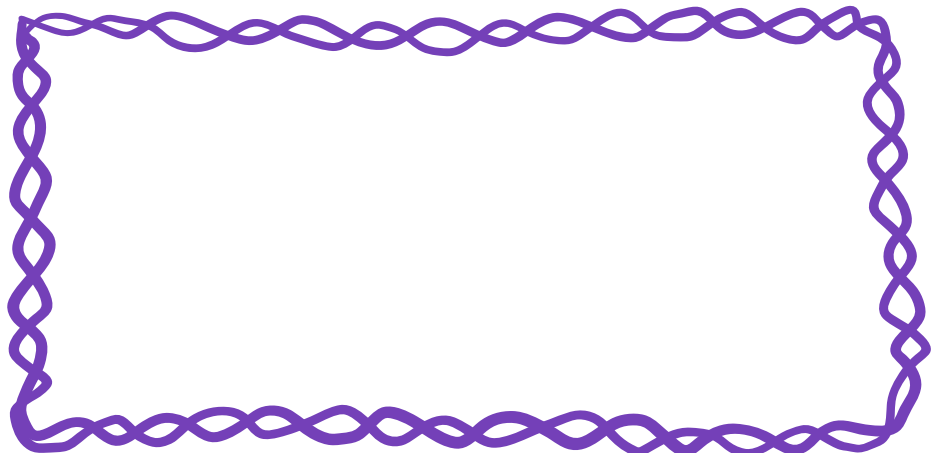
Fill in the squares: Finish Matthew 16:18 - Upon this Rock, I will build my church, and

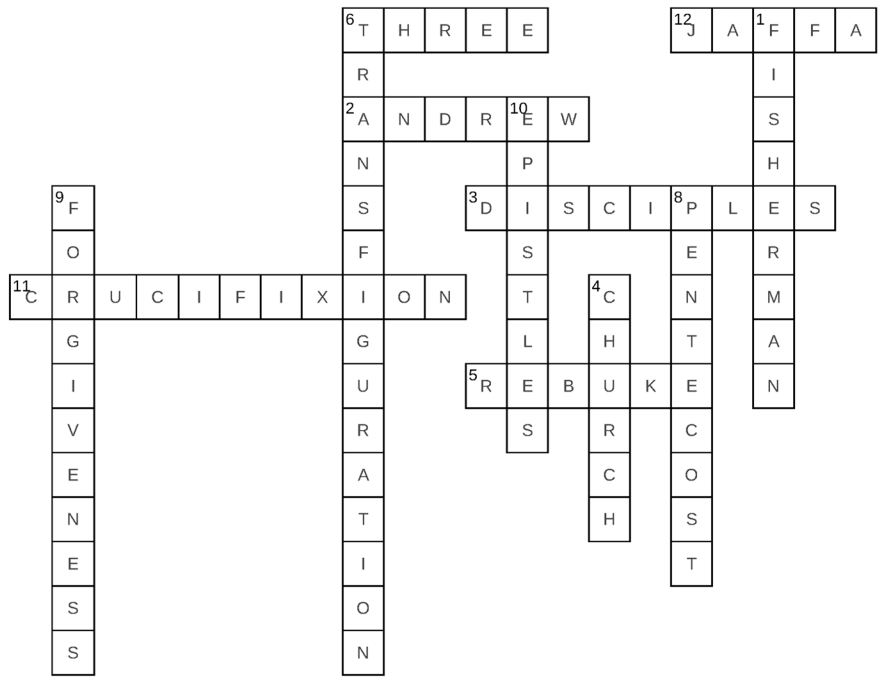
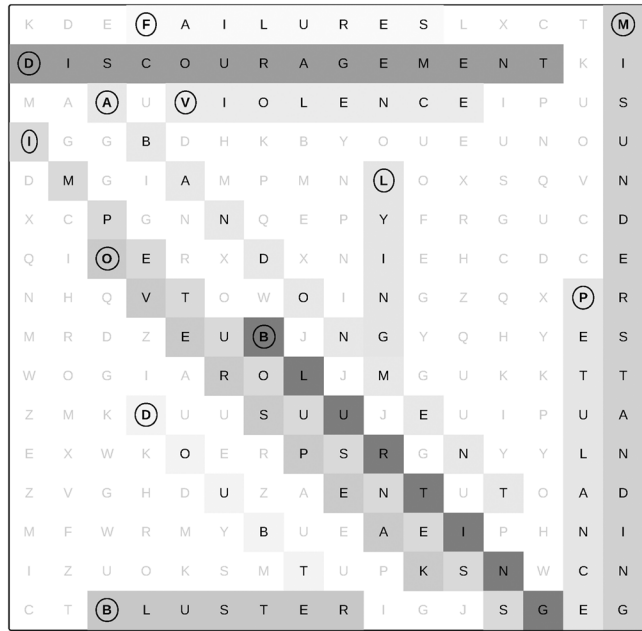
Decode the secret words: In Matthew 16:23, Jesus called Peter this

BIMGLNUGST COBLK

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Draw yourself with Peter.
If you could ask him any question, what would it be?





Teacher's QUIZ ANSWERS in order:

- 1) THE GATES OF HADES WILL NOT OVERCOME IT
- 2) STUMBLING BLOCK

BE PERSISTENT
LIKE DISCIPLE PETER

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Biblical Virtues

NAME:

DATE: