

Unit 20 at a Glance

General Letters

Unit Overview

In this unit, the students will look at several of the general letters written by New Testament writers James, Peter and John. These letters are remarkably practical, inspirational and challenging as they call us to prove our faith and our love by our deeds. The students will apply the lessons learned in this unit by controlling their tongues, performing deeds of faith, making choices to be submissive toward God, and displaying love toward both God and others.

Unit Goals

- The students will learn that their actions are important to God.
- The students will understand that faith and love for God are expressed through actions.
- The students will believe that they can show their faith and love for God by what they do.

Unit Contents

Lesson 1 James

Scripture Memory Verse

James 2:18

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote one of the most practical letters in the New Testament imploring Christians to not just "talk the talk," but to "walk the walk." Upon examination of this letter, the students will describe faith as expressed through deeds, and they will state a way in which they will show God their faith. Additionally, the students will learn the concept of taming the tongue as they identify one way to exercise this type of self-control.

Lesson 2 Peter

Scripture Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:23

When they hurled their insults at [Jesus], he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.

Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. Peter's letters to the suffering and sometimes misled Christians of upper Asia Minor make a powerful impact even today. The students will define holiness and learn that Peter called the church to this Biblical standard even in the face of suffering. They will describe Jesus' submission to God in all circumstances and identify one way that they also will submit to God.

Lesson 3 John

Scripture Memory Verse

1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

John, otherwise known as the "apostle of love," earned this reputation the hard way. Once known as a "son of thunder" John was radically changed by his friendship with Jesus to understand God's love in a whole new way. Through these eyes, John tells us with deep conviction how much God loves us and how we ought to love others. The students will use John's letters as a basis for their description of God's love, stating one practical way to express their own love toward God. In addition, they will choose one specific way to put into practice John's appeal to love one another.



3rd and 4th Grades

Dear Parent,

In this unit, the students will look at several of the general letters written by New Testament writers James, Peter and John. These letters are remarkably practical, inspirational and challenging as they call us to prove our faith and our love by our deeds. The students will apply the lessons learned in this unit by controlling their tongues, performing deeds of faith, making choices to be submissive toward God, and displaying love toward both God and others.

On the reverse side of this page, you will find an outline and a description of the lessons that comprise this unit. Included with each lesson is a Scripture Memory Verse for you to review with your child at home.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways you can reinforce these lessons at home:

- Devote several family devotionals to reading and writing summaries from one of the letters from this unit—James, 1 Peter or 1 John. Discuss one main point from each chapter and number them. For a greater challenge, pick a theme word that you think best describes each chapter and then try to match each letter of that theme word with points from each chapter, e.g. for James 1—theme: “T.R.I.A.L.S”—Testing of faith develops perseverance, Real faith doesn’t doubt, Intently look at the Bible, Always listen and do what it says, Look after orphans and widows. This also makes a great quiet time activity for parents, too!
- For one week, establish a “Caught in the Act” award in your home for a family member that you catch in the act of showing their faith or love for God by doing or saying something remarkable. Make sure that you explain why you chose the person and how they showed their faith. Arrange for the prize to be something that reinforces the award, e.g. having lunch with a ministry leader or HOPE volunteer, taking a tour of a local HOPE project in your area, visiting a family with foster or adoptive children, etc. Then go out for ice cream and share your faith together!
- Talk to your child about what he thinks it means to “suffer for doing good” (1 Peter 3:17). Share from your own life. Read through 1 Peter 3:8-17 with your child and talk about the attitudes that Jesus wants us to have even in the face of unjust suffering.

We look forward to being partners with you to help your child grow to know and love God more.

Thank you,

Your child’s teachers