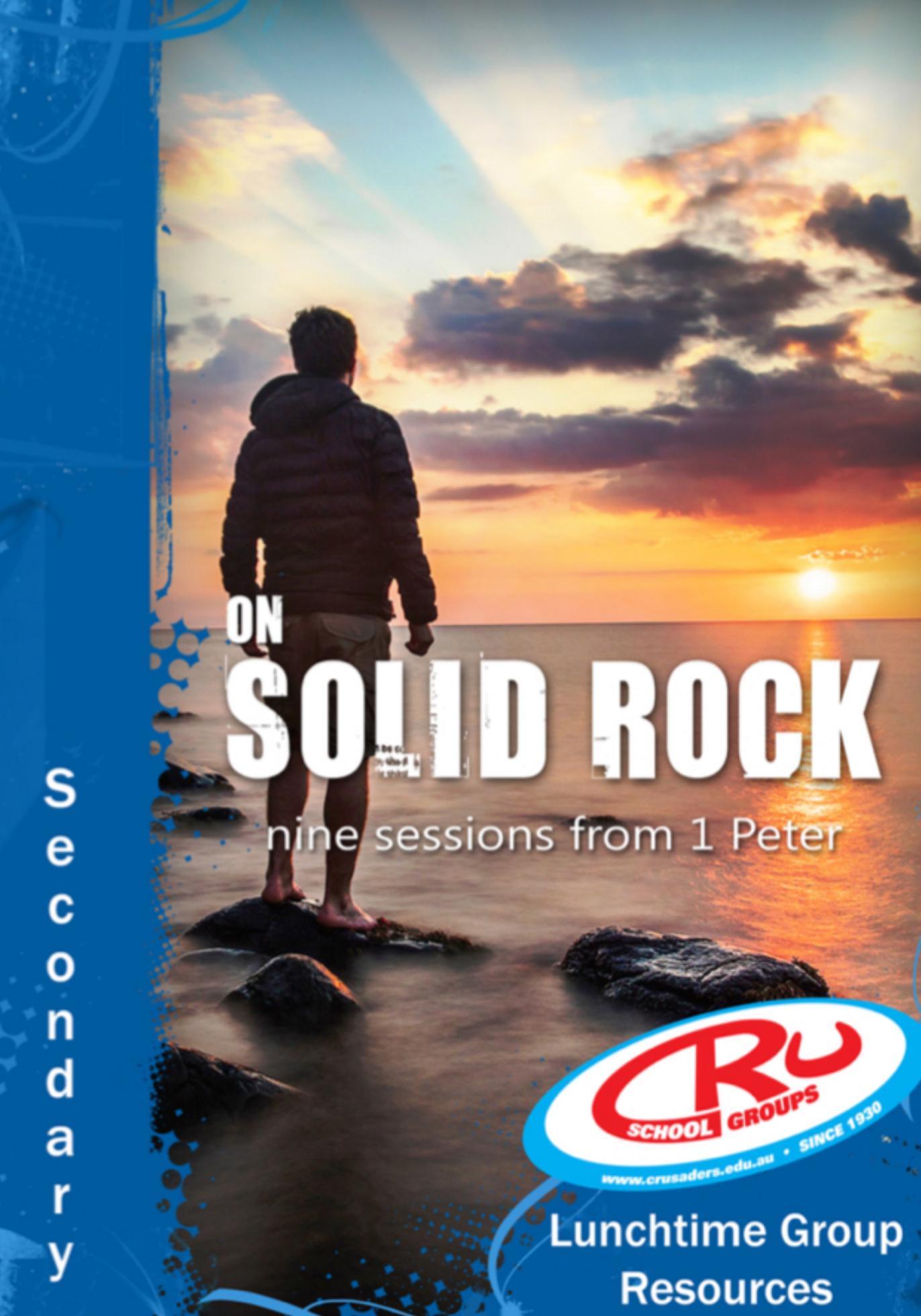


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ON
SOLID ROCK

nine sessions from 1 Peter



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Lunchtime Group
Resources

ON SOLID ROCK

nine sessions from 1 Peter



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

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WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 1 set of leader's notes for an outreach meeting.
- 8 sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide the aim of the study, a fun activity, discussion questions (with notes to help answer some questions) and prayer ideas.
- 8 student pages for regular meetings. The student pages can be photocopied and handed out if so desired. Each sheet contains the Bible passage (NIV), questions and prayer ideas. Note there are no student pages for Week 4, which is an outreach week.
- 2 colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the 'CRU School Groups' logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders request each school or church purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and questions before the group meets.
- A variety of video clips and other resources (including PowerPoint slides with the Bible verses for each week) are used in this series. All resources, including video clips, should be checked before the meeting to make sure they are appropriate for your group and there are no technical problems. The resources can be accessed from the Web Extras section of the CRU website:

www.crusaders.edu.au/school-ministry/resources/web-extras/

- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting, so divide your time accordingly.
- All games, activities and illustrations should be evaluated to make sure they can be safely done for your group. This will include considering safety in physical and food games, and appropriate illustrations considering the maturity level of your groups.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."

Colossians 1:28-29

ON SOLID ROCK

Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	Joy Beyond Words	1 Peter 1:1-9	Christians enjoy unspeakable happiness because their inheritance from God is secure and never-ending.
2	How Can I Be Holy?	1 Peter 1:13-16, 1:22-2:3	God's word is living, enduring, and able to change you to be holy like Him.
3	Standing Out	1 Peter 2:9-12	God's people show God to the world through their words and actions.
4	By His Wounds... Outreach Week	1 Peter 2:22-25	By Jesus' wounds, we're healed from sin.
5	Responding to Hostility	1 Peter 3:8-17	God's people do good to those who treat them badly.
6	Above All: Love	1 Peter 4:8-11	God's people go to the extreme to love and serve each other ahead of themselves.
7	Suffer Now... Glory Later	1 Peter 4:12-19	Rejoice if you're mistreated for being a Christian - for you are blessed to share in Christ's glory.
8	When Anxiety Strikes...	1 Peter 5:6-7	Bring all your worries and troubles to God - He cares for you!
9	Resist the Devil	1 Peter 5:8-11	Stay alert: the devil prowls, but God is stronger.

AIM

For students to joyfully praise God for the secure and never-ending inheritance that He provides.

PREPARE

- Pray as you prepare that God's will might be done and the students will be drawn closer to Him.
- Read through 1 Peter 1:1-9, familiarising yourself with the context and content of the passage.
- Photocopy the Week 1 Students' page for everyone (p.22).
- Ensure you have the facilities to show the Web Extras PowerPoint 'Bidding Game'. Print out enough of the Web Extras 'CRU Dollars'.
- Ensure you have the facilities to show the Web Extras video 'Joyful Dog'.

INTRO

The Letter of 1 Peter

Say:

Over the next nine weeks we're going to be looking at the book of 1 Peter. This is a letter that the Apostle Peter wrote during a time when Christians throughout the Roman Empire were increasingly being persecuted for their faith. Peter writes to encourage them to stand firm in this world of trouble by reminding them of what Jesus has done, what will happen when Jesus returns in the future, and how to live as Christians in the meantime. To start off, he begins with this great reminder about the joyful certainty of heaven.

FUN ACTIVITY

For What It's Worth

Print and hand out to each student two \$100 and two \$50 'CRU Dollar' notes. Using the Web Extras

PowerPoint, display all of the six items (or announce what they are if you don't have PowerPoint - see *below*). Have the students 'invest' as much of their CRU dollars into as many items as they like by placing their CRU dollars into different spots you designate for each item. Then, add up all the money and announce what the students value the most to the least.

Display the last PowerPoint slide and explain to the students how none of these things bring us lasting joy. **Smart phones** break or go out of date. **Clothes** wear out or we grow out of them. **Pets** pass away. **Video games** go out of date or need upgrading. **Holidays** end. **Wi-Fi** often drops out.

Ask the students: Is there anything we can enjoy that will last forever?

DISCUSS

1 What are some precious things you have lost that you were hoping you'd have for a long time?

Precious things for some people include their favourite video games, clothes, friendships, pets, their health, money, smart phones, and internet. However, the sad reality is that these things typically don't last. Even worse, if we have made them the most important things to us, the loss of them feels a whole lot sadder.

Pray for the group as they hear God's word explained and applied, then have a student read 1 Peter 1:1-9.

2 What do verses 4 and 5 tell us about the security of those who have faith in Jesus and the security of what they get to inherit some day?

Unlike some of the things talked about in the previous question, we can have complete confidence



that nothing will wreck the certainty of heaven and nothing can stop those who trust in Jesus from receiving it.

We can be certain of the *future*: even though we don't yet fully possess our heavenly inheritance (eternal life, peace, joy, perfection, God's presence, rewards, etc.), it is currently being kept safe for us and can never perish, spoil, or fade (verse 4).

We can also be certain during the *present time*: because while we wait for this 'coming salvation', those who trust in Jesus are being "shielded by God's power" through that faith (verse 5). Suffering, losing money or friends, persecution, sickness...even death, cannot steal away this future inheritance.

3 **By trusting in Jesus, our inheritance and lives are eternally secure. So according to verses 6-9 why do trials and difficulties still happen in this life? How do they add to our joy?**

The trials and difficulties in our lives are not random or meaningless. Rather, God uses the pain we experience along the way to our inheritance to teach us to trust in Him more and more. Our faith is made stronger through trials ("refined by fire").

So not only do we have an incredible, eternal future to look forward to, but the trials we experience on the way there have a purpose that God intends for our advantage. What an amazing privilege we have! God has given us eternal life, an inheritance that will last forever, and He is helping us along the way to get there. We may not see Jesus at the moment (verse 8), but because of all this we love Him and are bursting with joy that is beyond words!

4 **Look again at verse 3. How is all of this made possible?**

All these things God is doing now, and will do in the future, are possible because of what He did in the past through Jesus Christ. In His great mercy, God

the Father sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved death itself was defeated. Which means we have a 'living' hope that we will be raised to life like Him forever!

Even the "new birth" into God's family is a gift 'given' to us by Him. This should cause us to rejoice and give God great thanks and praise for doing this for us.

5 **Watch the Web Extras video 'Joyful Dog'. In pairs, list some things that push joy out of your life. How can we recover the kind of 'inexpressible joy' that we read about in this passage? Share with the group afterwards.**

Things that lessen joy may include: doubt, feeling like God is not there, temptation to sin, worrying about the future, you or a family member getting really sick, friends betraying you, or bullying.

In the video, we saw how joyful that dog was just by seeing its owner. Our joy can be recovered as we fix our eyes on Jesus - daily reminding ourselves of God's promises in His word, our salvation, inheritance, and that God is working to get us there through our trials. We can also ask Christians we know to pray with us and remind us regularly of these promises and of the inheritance that is ours to come. CRU group is a great place to do this.

PRAY

Close by praising God that He is powerful to keep His promises in these verses. Thank Him for our future inheritance and the salvation of our souls. Ask Him to fill us with great joy and help us to remember that we are safe forever in His care - even when bad times come in our lives.