



STANDING FIRM

eight sessions from 1 Peter

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Lunchtime Group
Resources

STANDING FIRM

eight 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?

- 8 sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide an aim, fun activity, guidelines for an interactive talk as well as prayer, memory verse and song ideas.
- 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 requests 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 talk 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 fun activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting and divide time accordingly.
- All suggested songs are linked to the theme of the talk. The intention of including a wide variety of songs from different sources is so that you have options if your group enjoys singing - please do not feel it necessary to buy every album listed. The albums listed are available in Christian bookstores and single tracks may be available for download on the artist's website or 'Youtube'.
- 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*

STANDING FIRM

Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	Joy Beyond Words	1 Peter 1:3-4, 8-9	Followers of Jesus can enjoy unspeakable happiness because their life is safe and never-ending.
2	How Can I Be Holy?	1 Peter 1:14-16, 2:2	God's word is living, lasting, and able to change us to be like Jesus.
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... <i>Outreach Week</i>	1 Peter 2:22-25	By Jesus' wounds, we're healed from sin.
5	Above All: Love	1 Peter 4:8-10	God's people go to the extreme to love and help each other ahead of themselves.
6	The Best Is Yet To Come	1 Peter 4:12-13, 19	Followers of Jesus may be mistreated, but heaven awaits them!
7	When Worry Comes...	1 Peter 5:7	Bring all your worries and troubles to God - He cares for you!
8	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 life 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 1:3-4, 8-9, familiarising yourself with the context and content of the passage.
- ❑ Ensure you have the facilities to show the Web Extras video 'Joyful Dog'.
- ❑ Ensure you have the facilities to show the Web Extras PowerPoint 'Bidding Game'. Print out enough of the Web Extras 'CRU Dollars'.

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 (eg. you might use different tables to represent an item, and any CRU dollars for that item gets placed on that table). 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.

SHORT TALK

A - Safe and Secure

Ask the students to share with the group any precious things they have lost that they were hoping would last a long time.

It seems that a lot of things we treasure in life are things that ultimately don't last! What's more, the more we like and value something (like we did in the activity) the more it hurts when we have to give those things up or we become separated from them. So it's always wise to make sure that the things we value the most are things that we know will last and won't let us down.

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

In today's passage God (through the Apostle Peter) tells us that there is something that lasts forever and that we can always enjoy: eternal life in heaven with God Himself and all the joy and happiness that come from being there with Him. Listen to what the Bible says God gives us.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-4

So, unlike some of the precious things we have really valued but didn't last, we can have complete confidence that what God has in store for us in heaven will never decay, become ruined, or disappear. Things like our friendship with God, living forever without any sickness or suffering, and the happiness that comes with celebrating all that God has done for us will never end!

Ask the group if they happened to notice in the verse how this great future was made possible. It's all possible because of Jesus! After He died for our sins, He rose from the grave alive. Those who trust



in Jesus today can be certain that just as He now lives forever, they too will live forever no matter what happens in life.

B - Joy!

Watch the Web Extras video 'Joyful Dog'.

Wouldn't it be great if we could be joyful like that dog every day? Sometimes there are things that make us less happy. Things like: when we get worried about the future, when we or a family member gets sick, when a friend betrays us, when we feel like God is far away. What should we do in those moments?

Read 1 Peter 1:8-9

In the video, the dog was filled with joy just by seeing its owner. Today, we can't see Jesus with our physical eyes. However when we take our minds off the things that worry us and instead think about all the good things Jesus has done and the eternal life that lies ahead, then our joy will start to come back. Like it says in verse 8, "no words can tell how glad and happy you are to be saved." There still might be things that make us unhappy, but that deeper joy will still be there underneath it.

C - Application

Ask the group how they can be reminded each day of what Jesus has done and of God's promises about the future. We can ask other followers of Jesus we know to pray with us and remind us daily of these promises and of the eternal life that is ours to come. We can also set time aside each day to read the Bible - since this is where we 'see' Jesus and hear about God's promises. CRU group is a great place to be reminded about Jesus and God's promises - so make it your plan to come along each week.

PRAYER

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.

SONG IDEAS

Never Be Shaken - Seeds of Courage - Seeds Family Worship

God Rock - God Rock - Colin Buchanan

Refuge and Strength - Seeds of Courage - Seeds Family Worship