

Short Bible Devotions

Here's some short Bible studies written to help us consider speaking for Jesus.

Devotion 1: Declaring His Praises

Read **1 Peter 2:4-10**, and then pray for God's help!

1. Christians are people who come to Jesus, the living Stone, as the centre of our faith. What are we being built into (v5)? How does v6 help us understand why Jesus is such a good foundation for our faith?
2. To unbelievers, Jesus is not a sure foundation. What do people think of him (v7)? And what kind of stone does Jesus become to them (v8)?
3. *Reflect.* Can you recall a time when you rejected Jesus? What helped you come to him as the living Stone? Why, as far you know, do people you know reject Jesus?
4. In v9-10, what is the purpose of Christians being built into a "royal priesthood"? (see also v5) How might that help others not stumble over Jesus, but come to him?

Give thanks that Jesus is the living Stone, a firm foundation for all who come to him. Thank him that he is building us as his people to declare his praises. Ask for the help you need to speak of Jesus, and pray that others may be led from stumbling over Jesus to placing their faith in him.

Devotion 2: Being prepared to speak for Jesus

Read **1 Peter 3:13-18**, and then pray for God's help!

1. In verse 13-14, Peter encourages Christians to live good lives (see also chapter 2 verses 11-12). What does he expect a good life will **not** bring (v13)? But what **might** it bring? (v14)
2. In v17-18, how does Peter show us that suffering for what is right means we are blessed? Or, to put it another way, why is it no surprise if Christians suffer when they live good lives – who do we follow; both in life and death?
3. *Reflect.* Have people spoken against you being a Christian? In hindsight, was it an opportunity to speak for Jesus?
4. In the midst of whether we suffer or not, what preparation are we to do? (v15) What effect do we hope speaking for Jesus will have (v16)? See also 2v12.
5. *Reflect.* How well prepared are you to speak about Jesus? Could you prepare a few short phrases beginning with: "The thing I love about Jesus is...."

Thank God for Jesus who shows us that suffering with him is blessing because new life will follow for his followers. Ask for God's help to want to follow Jesus, and be prepared to speak for him.