

## THE THREAD | The Gospel At Work

### Lesson 8: A Letter From Peter

Dear Parents,

Hello again! Our group is still marching through our 13 lessons, looking at the spread of the Gospel and Christianity in a post-crucifixion/resurrection world through *The Gospel At Work*, in our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread*. This was the eighth lesson out of 13 and entitled "A Letter from Peter." In this lesson, students clearly saw from this letter Peter wrote to the church under persecution (likely under the reign of Emperor Nero) that the purpose of God's people is to tell about His greatness. We also discovered that every one of us has influence; the question is whether we are using that influence to point people to Jesus or to push them away from Jesus.

**Lesson Overview:** God miraculously rescues every person who places their faith in Jesus. Then He, through His grace, gives them a place to belong in a family called the Church. But why? Is there a purpose behind our belonging? Yes! We will see clearly in our study that the purpose of God's people is to tell others about Jesus and to demonstrate the love of Jesus. In this way, the Church points other people toward Jesus, helping them to see who He really is and to understand the power of His death and resurrection. The problem is that we often forget about this purpose and lead people away from Christ and instead to other things that ultimately will not and can not save or satisfy them.

**What We Want Your Teenager To Learn:** Understand that they are part of a family of believers, called by God, and set apart to testify to the world about the power of the Gospel. Realize that their lives have tremendous potential to point people toward Christ.

**What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They've Learned:** Evaluate whether their lifestyle points people to Christ or leads them away from Him.

**Scripture Passages We Studied:** 1 Peter 2:4-12; Matthew 5:13-16

*Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.*

#### **Next Steps. . .**

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- What is influence? How do we gain it?
- What does it mean that everyone has influence? Where are some areas that you feel like you have influence? How are you using that influence?
- What would happen if our entire church began to use its influence in order to point people to Jesus? What would happen if our family used our influence to point people to Jesus?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I'm praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don't hesitate to let me know.