

## Desiring the Word of God

Because of his faith, Jesus changes the name of one of the twelve disciples, Simon son of Jonah, to Peter. Peter would write two books of the Bible, 1 and 2 Peter. Listen carefully to what the apostle Peter writes in his first book:

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation, if you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Pet 2:1-3, CSB)

1. What are all the possible benefits of drinking milk? Why is this a good food for babies? Can you think of any harmful results from drinking milk? What is the apostle Peter saying by using milk to represent God's word the Bible?

2. What is salvation? What is "grow up into your salvation?"

3. What does it mean, "if you have tasted that the Lord is good?"

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### Teacher Notes

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Teach the student who Peter is by sharing this passage:

Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven." (Matt 16:17-19, CSB)

When going over the questions below, you will likely need to read 1 Peter 2:1-3 several times.

1. What are all the possible benefits of drinking milk? Why is this a good food for babies? Can you think of any harmful results from drinking milk? What is the apostle Peter saying by using milk to represent God's word the Bible?

Encourage the student to share all their thoughts about the benefits of milk and why it's good food for babies. Allow time for sharing.

Ask the student: what is the apostle Peter saying by using milk to represent God's word the Bible? Did he notice the word "pure?"

When Peter uses the phrase, "like newborn infants," he is making a comparison between infants and all Christians.

Peter is encouraging Believers to desire and acquire God's word like a baby desires milk.

2. What is salvation? What is "grow up into your salvation?"

Introduce to the student that salvation is not just the one time event when someone comes to faith. Salvation can be understood as:

Salvation from the penalty of sin: this is the first step of salvation when someone comes to faith in Jesus Christ.

Salvation from the power of sin: this process takes time as you learn more from the Bible on how to be more Christ like. This is growing up into your salvation.

3. What does it mean, “if you have tasted that the Lord is good?”

Ask the student: what should you do to prepare yourself to be fed?

Help the student understand that their heart must be in the right place to receive God's word. Summarize the meaning of, “rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander.”

Ask the student: what does it mean, “if you have tasted that the Lord is good?” Allow some time to share.

When you see how God's word changes your views and moral standard and makes you a better person, you'll want to learn more. There are real benefits to being holy as God is holy. Not only will you be a better person, you will be able to discern and make wiser choices in life.