

Peter

Have you ever wanted to know, “What is God’s plan for my life?” Well, Peter tells us what God’s plan is. God wants us to know that we are secure in our salvation and that His plan includes submission to authority, surrender to God’s will, suffering and service.

“Suffering?” you ask. Yes, Peter tells us that as Christians, we can expect dangers from both outside and inside the church. You see, the Christians he was writing to were being persecuted, tortured and killed for following Jesus. And, they were being attacked from within by false prophets who were distorting the truth.

Let’s play a game to find out how we can always be moving forward in the truth while being aware of and prepared for false teachers and attacks against the truth.

Defend against attacks both from outside and from inside

Objectives:	Play dodge ball with your family Find out where and how attacks on the church and your faith may come from. Have fun with your family Learn scripture
Number of Players:	2 or more. an equal number of Christians and attackers
Length:	30 minutes, add or subtract time to fit your family needs; save 10 minutes at the end for discussion.
Set up:	Cut apart the scriptures and the attacks on the next page. Place the scriptures in one hat (this will be the hat that the Christians draw from.) Place the attacks in another hat (this will be the hat that the attackers will draw from) You should play this game outside. Assign a home base and a finish line.
Props:	2 hats to draw slips of paper from one ball for each attacker. The attackers will be throwing the ball at the Christians. You wouldn’t want to use a hard ball. You could also use beanie babies, or wadded up pieces of paper; anything that would not hurt if thrown at someone.



FAMILY STUDY

Play: Everyone should stand at home base. The Christians should each draw one slip of paper from the Christian hat. Each attacker should draw one slip of paper from the Attacker's hat. The attackers should each take their ball and spread themselves out around the yard.

The attacker's job is to hit a Christian with their ball and cause them to have to begin the race again. However, before you can throw the ball you have to shout out what your paper says. You cannot hit the Christian once they have crossed the finish line. Once you have shouted what your paper says and thrown your ball, you must fetch your ball, go back to home base, and draw another attack from the attacker's hat before you can try to hit another Christian with your ball.

The Christian's job is to make steady progress toward and to cross the finish line. The attackers will be yelling out lies to you, attacking your faith and throwing a ball at you. If the ball touches you, even just a little bit, you must begin again--go back to home base, draw another paper from the Christian hat and begin the race again. When an attacker shouts a lie at you and throws their ball at you, you should say to them what is on your paper, or you can answer with any scripture that you have memorized and you dodge the ball thrown at you. i.e. if the attacker says, "God doesn't love you!" you can say, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."

Play until all the Christians have finished the race or until you get tired. Then, have everyone sit in a circle and discuss the game and what they learned.

Discussion: How was this race to the finish line like our walk with the Lord Jesus? How can we make steadfast, faithful progress in the truth? Have you ever been "attacked" because of your faith? How were you able to continue in your faithful walk despite the attacks? What does it mean to "suffer according to the will of God?" For the Christians: what were the scriptures that you used to ward off the attacks? How did those fit the situation or not? What is your strongest defense against attacks on your faith? What are some ways that you, as a family, can help each other to be strong in your faith?

Close in prayer, requesting wisdom and that God would reveal His purpose for your family.

Christians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again...1 Pet 1:3

...conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 1 Pet 1:17

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes...1 Pet 2:1

We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...1 Pet 2:9

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men...1 Pet 2:13

For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Pet 3:17

...do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you...1 Pet 4:12

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. 1 Pet 4:19

...this they willingly forget; that by the word of God the heavens were of old...2 Pet 3:5

...since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...2 P 3:11

Attackers

Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. Jesus is not coming!



FAMILY STUDY

Attackers
You Christians have burnt down the city!
You Christians are a bunch of cannibals!
There is no God, your hope is in vain!
God doesn't care about you!
You are not really a Christian, look at all the mistakes you have made!
Where is God in your suffering? He's not taking care of you!
You are not special to God!
Why do good? No one is going to do good for you!