

THE FAMILY OF  
*Like Precious Faith*

CLARENCE SEXTON



CROWN

CHRISTIAN  
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*Royal Reading*

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THE FAMILY OF  
*Like Precious Faith*

TEACHER'S GUIDE

FIRST EDITION

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## THE FAMILY OF LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH

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Credit: A Dutch Interior - Grace Before the Meal (oil on canvas) by Pieters, Evert (1856-1932)

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE TEACHER'S GUIDE

This Teacher's Guide is designed to assist those who will be leading in the study of these Bible lessons. You will find helpful information in the front of this book that will be of great value as you prepare to teach each lesson.

- ◆ Preparing to Teach the Lesson
- ◆ Ten Laws for the Sunday School Teacher
- ◆ Tips for Teaching the Bible
- ◆ Goals for This Series

After the introductory material, you will find preparation instructions and Class Teaching Notes for all thirteen lessons in this series. At the conclusion of this book, information is given for those who are interested in additional materials. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will give you divine enabling as you faithfully teach the Word of God.

## PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON

As we study to teach God's Word, we must realize that thorough preparation is extremely important. The teacher should teach from an overflow. The truths of each lesson should make an impact in the teacher's life before being communicated to others. Here are some suggestions for preparing to teach the lessons in this series.

### *Begin Preparation Early*

For many teachers, preparation is something that begins and ends in the same evening. Usually, that evening is the one before the lesson is to be given. If you begin to prepare early, you will have the opportunity to "live" with the lesson throughout the week. Many times we do not get the full impact of Bible truths because we do not give the Lord the opportunity to develop these truths in our own lives.

### *Look to Christ*

In our Bible study and teaching, our goal is not to know information; our goal is to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Begin your preparation time by "*looking unto Jesus.*" We need to come to God's Word in faith believing that He is going to speak to us. Take time to commune with the Lord Jesus and get your heart in tune with Him.

### *Read the Bible Background Reading*

Read the background Bible passages that are given for each lesson. Be sure to read each passage twice.

1. Read the first time for general understanding. Look up any unfamiliar words or phrases.
2. Read the second time to mark key words and key expressions that speak to your heart.

### *Read the Bible Lesson*

After reading and marking the Scripture passages which correspond to the lesson, read the Bible lesson from *The Family of Like Precious Faith* that corresponds with the lesson you are studying. As you read, mark key statements or paragraphs so that you can review them later.

### *Answer the Questions*

In the Class Teaching Notes, you will find preparation questions for each lesson. After reading the lesson, answer these questions to reinforce the things you have read. These are identical to the questions that the students are given in the *Study Guide*.

## *Teacher's Preparation*

### *Notice the Lesson Aims*

In each lesson, you should not try to teach many things, but rather teach a *few* things well. Give careful attention to the “lesson aims” which help to identify the key truths that are to be taught in each lesson. Keep these aims before you during your preparation time. They will help you to communicate the key truths in the lesson.

### *Write Out Ideas for Application*

A good Bible teacher will always strive to apply the truths of God’s Word to his audience. Before teaching, write out specific ideas for applying this lesson to your particular audience. We can teach people of all ages and stages in life to bring their burdens to Christ. Make your application especially strong in the conclusion of the lesson.

### *Use Illustrations*

The Lord Jesus often taught great truths through the use of practical illustrations. Perhaps the best illustrations are those that come directly from the Bible. Take time to reflect upon the lesson and make note of biblical illustrations that could help you teach more effectively. You may also think of some experiences from your life or the lives of other Christians that would help to illustrate a truth in the lesson.

## *Teacher's Preparation*

Personal illustrations should always be truthful and practical; at times, they may be thought-provoking or humorous as well.

### *Use the Class Teaching Notes*

Class Teaching Notes have been prepared for each lesson in this series. These notes are identical in format to the *Study Guide*. The page numbers on the Class Teaching Notes correspond to the page numbers in the *Study Guide*.

Be sure to make any handwritten notes on the Class Teaching Notes that you feel will assist you in teaching the lesson. You may wish to mark down personal illustrations, application ideas, or quotes and key expressions from the book *The Family of Like Precious Faith*.

The Class Teaching Notes will be your aid as you teach the Bible lesson. The Class Teaching Notes are designed to be removed from the *Teacher's Guide* and placed neatly in your Bible. When teaching these lessons, do not carry the entire *Teacher's Guide* or the book *The Family of Like Precious Faith* to class; only carry your Bible and the Class Teaching Notes.

# *Teacher's Preparation*

## *Review*

When you walk into class, you should know thoroughly what you are going to teach. Plan a time to review the Class Teaching Notes and Scripture reading. If you take the time to review the lesson, the things you have studied will be more firmly planted in your heart.

## *Conclude With a Time of Prayer*

- ◆ Pray for the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Pray for a spiritual understanding of God's Word.
- ◆ Pray for your pastor and church to be strengthened.
- ◆ Pray for lost souls to be saved.

## Ten Laws for the Sunday School Teacher

1. Prepare early for Sunday School.
2. Recognize the authority of God's Word.
3. Enter into study with prayer.
4. Know the material comprehensively before teaching in parts.
5. Use proper teaching methods.
6. Take your class to the Scripture often.
7. Help your class think biblically and use biblical language.
8. Make strong application in the conclusion of the lesson.
9. Encourage Bible memory.
10. Find a way to encourage daily preparation for next week's lesson.

Clarence Sexton

## TIPS FOR TEACHING THE BIBLE

As teachers of God's Word, we have a desire to be as effective as possible because we know that people need to hear and understand the Bible. You do not have to obtain a formal education to be a good teacher. Here are several suggestions that will help you to become a more effective teacher.

### *Always Begin and End on Time*

This shows great respect and consideration for others. The teacher should arrive to class early and should be prepared to teach before he arrives.

### *Do Not Be Afraid to Ask Questions*

You may ask questions to the entire class or to individuals. Some questions may take time for people to answer. You may need to reword a question to lead people to the correct answer.

### *Get Every Member of the Class Involved*

This can be done in a variety of ways including the following:

- ◆ Allowing the class or class members to read Scripture
- ◆ Asking questions that call for a response
- ◆ Encouraging class members to write in the *Study Guide*

### *Maintain Eye Contact With Your Class*

Many teachers fail in this matter because they are bound to their notes or to a book they have carried to class. When teaching, carry only your Bible with the Class Teaching Notes neatly placed in it. Use the notes to help you stay on track and teach in a logical order, but do not give your notes more attention than your students.

### *Use Variety in Your Teaching*

No one wants to be part of a Sunday School class that is cold and dead. You can make a class much more lively and interesting by varying your teaching methods and styles. This can be done in many ways including the following:

- ◆ Using object lessons or visual aids when teaching
- ◆ Allowing students to answer or discuss questions
- ◆ Using an illustration to grab the students' attention at the beginning of the lesson
- ◆ Varying your tone of voice (Do not speak in a monotone voice.)



### *Make Specific Applications to Your Students*

As you are teaching, work diligently to apply the truths you are teaching to the students in your class. They will find joy in *obeying* God's Word. Be clear and specific as you seek to show the students how the lesson applies to them. At the conclusion of the lesson, call for definite decisions; encourage each student to write these decisions in the *Study Guide* or in his Bible.

God can speak to the hearts of men, and He will speak through us as we are yielded to Him and filled with His Spirit.

### *Keep the Bible Central*

As Baptists we believe that our sole authority for faith and practice is God's Word. When you teach, your students should know that you have taught them God's Word. Take people to the Scriptures often and read the passages given in each lesson. You should teach in such a way that every student feels as if he needs a Bible in order to participate. Keep the Bible central in every question, in every discussion, and in every lecture.

### *Be Filled With the Holy Spirit of God*

God can enable all of His children to do the work He has called them to do. For the Christian, the filling of the Spirit is not an option; it is a command (Ephesians 5:18). The Lord Jesus said in John 15:5, "*Without me ye can do nothing.*" We often try to do for ourselves what we are not capable of doing.

## GOALS FOR THIS SERIES

- ◆ *TO ALLOW OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST TO BECOME MORE PRECIOUS TO US*
- ◆ *TO ADD TO OUR FAITH THE THINGS GOD INSTRUCTS US TO ADD, SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE ABUNDANT CHRISTIAN LIVES*
- ◆ *TO LEARN TO RECOGNIZE FALSE TEACHERS AND TO UNDERSTAND THE DANGER OF THOSE WHO FORSAKE THE TRUTH*
- ◆ *TO BE REMINDED THAT THERE IS A DAY OF JUDGMENT AND THAT EVERY MAN WILL MEET GOD FACE TO FACE*
- ◆ *TO BE STIRRED BY THE TRUTH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN, AND TO DETERMINE TO BE FOUND FAITHFUL WHEN HE COMES*

## *Preparation Questions for Lesson 1*

### THIS IS A FAMILY OF LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH

#### *Background Reading*

II Peter 1:1-4; Philippians 3:14; II Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 3:1; Numbers 23:19; II Corinthians 1:20

#### MONDAY

How does Peter identify himself in II Peter 1:1? What does this show us about the change wrought in Peter's life?

#### TUESDAY

According to II Peter 1:1, to whom is the second epistle of Peter written?

#### WEDNESDAY

Read II Peter 1:3. What power is at work in the lives of those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ?

#### THURSDAY

From II Peter 1:4, what has God given to us as believers?

#### FRIDAY

What great truth do we learn in Numbers 23:19 and also in II Corinthians 1:20?

#### SATURDAY

We see in II Peter 1:4 that every believer is a partaker of what? Because of this, what are we able to escape?

### THIS IS A FAMILY OF LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH

# 1

*Teacher's Preparation*

When Peter was living on the Sea of Galilee, he thought about a fishing business. He perhaps thought that he would have the best and biggest fishing business one day. But now it is not fishing that is precious and meaningful to Peter. All of that has diminished. All of that has paled. Now it is not fishing; it is his faith. He says, "I'm writing to you about our *like precious faith*." With every passing day, the Lord Jesus meant more and more to Peter. This is the way it ought to be in our lives.

#### *Bible Background Reading*

II Peter 1:1-4; Philippians 3:14; II Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 3:1; Numbers 23:19; II Corinthians 1:20

#### *Bible Lesson Reading*

Read chapter one in *The Family of Like Precious Faith* by Clarence Sexton.

## Lesson Aims

To see that all those who are true believers in Jesus Christ share *"like precious faith"*

To understand that the Lord Jesus should become more and more precious to us every day

To recognize that our faith is powerful because it is faith in the Almighty God who is able to do all things

To show that we are to live our lives by faith, believing in the promises of God

To learn that by faith in Christ, we receive a new nature which enables us to live a life pleasing to Him

# THIS IS A FAMILY OF LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH

# 1

Teacher's Notes

## Scripture Memory

*"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."*

II Peter 1:1

Notes



he faith of Christians is called *"precious faith,"* because it is connected to the Precious One. The Lord Jesus is called precious by Peter three times (I Peter 2:4, 6, 7). He calls His blood precious too. He calls the *"trial of your faith"* precious (I Peter 1:7), and speaks of *"precious promises"* (II Peter 1:4). To Peter, the Lord and all things related to Him were precious.

Read II Peter 1:1-4. We often use the expression, *"our faith,"* to summarize what we believe about God's Word and the body of truth we hold as believers. It is *"like precious faith"* with all other true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Peter was living on the Sea of Galilee, he thought about a fishing business. But now it is not fishing that is precious and meaningful to Peter. All of that has diminished. All of that has paled. Now it is not fishing; it is his faith. He says, *"I'm writing to you about our precious faith."*

*With every passing day, the Lord Jesus meant more and more to Peter. This is the way it ought to be in our lives.*

## *The Power of This Faith*

There is “*divine power*” in this faith. Notice what the Bible says in II Peter 1:3. Though Peter was a strong man physically, he realized that there is a power that only God has. He knew that he could have this power in his life because Jesus Christ lived in him.



*People ought to know that our lives have been changed by the power of Almighty God.*

Peter had seen firsthand Christ’s power over nature, over illness and disease, and over demons. He had even seen the Lord raise the dead. He knew that the Lord Jesus rose from the

dead because he saw the living Savior. Peter was an eyewitness of the mighty power of God.

We have a great God, the only true and living God who is greater than all our need. He has all power. Our precious faith is a dynamic, powerful faith in the Almighty God.

## *The Promises of This Faith*

Our precious faith comes with precious promises. The Bible says in verse four, “*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises...*” We are to live on the promises of God. Find a promise and claim it.

*What is a promise? A promise from God is a divine assurance on which we can depend.*

Consider Numbers 23:19. We as human beings sometimes make a promise but never follow through with it. The Bible says God does not do that. Everything God says, God will do. Every promise God makes, He will keep.



*God’s promises will carry you through the most difficult hours in life.*

Notice II Corinthians 1:20, “*For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*” If God said it, you can say, “Amen!” It is going to come to pass. Faith in God does not *see* its way through life; it *faiths* its way through life by believing in God’s promises.

## *The Partakers of This Faith*

We have the joy of being partakers of this faith. The Bible says in verse four, “*...that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*”

Be careful not to misinterpret this verse. We are not becoming gods. We have our old nature, but He gives the “*divine nature.*” This means that God gives us an enabling to live the life that pleases Him. If you are a Christian, God has given you a nature that enables you to live the life that pleases Him.

*Because of this “precious faith” in Jesus Christ, God has given us a desire to serve Him.*

# *Preparation Questions for Lesson 2*

## THIS FAMILY ADDS TO THEIR FAITH

### *Background Reading*

II Peter 1:5-11; John 7:17; I Corinthians 9:19-27; Psalm 37:7;  
John 8:29

### MONDAY

What seven things are listed in II Peter 1:5-7 that we are to add to our faith?

### TUESDAY

In II Peter 1:5, what is the first thing we must add to our faith? Why do you think God mentions this first? What does verse three have to say about this subject?

### WEDNESDAY

What principle is given in John 7:17 which concerns knowing what God would have us to know?

### THURSDAY

Read I Corinthians 9:25-27. Why was Paul concerned with being temperate in all things?

### FRIDAY

From Psalm 37:7, what does it mean for a Christian to exhibit patience?

### SATURDAY

What statement by Christ in John 8:29 should be the attitude of every believer?