

New Life in Jesus Restores Us

Penny Crusade 2017



ALIVE!

John 5:24

Introduction (for teacher's use):

This week's Penny Crusade video focuses on Javier, who is the president of the Mexican Advent Christian Conference. Javier's story is one of restoration. Similarly, we'll talk a little about Javier's story, and will use it as an opportunity to talk about how new life in Jesus restores us. While Javier's story is one of restoration of his family, the goal of the discussion is more to focus on the spiritual restoration in Jesus that comes as a part of our new life in him.

Scripture Passage: 1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)

"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

Teacher Notes:

We have all had hard things happen in our lives. Because of sin the world we live in is not perfect. There are a lot of hard things that we have to go through, and all of it caused by the sin of the world. As we saw in the video, Javier went through some hard things. But we see that God restored Javier's son and even used his son's experiences to bring Javier to new life in Jesus. Now Javier has the opportunity to experience the spiritual restoration that only Jesus can offer.

Even with all the hard things we have to deal with in this world, God has promised us that he will restore us, returning us (and this world) back to what he made it to be, a perfect place with no pain and no suffering. When we receive Jesus, and the new life he offers us, we can be restored. In 1 Peter, we are told that though we go through hard times now, through Jesus, God will restore and strengthen us, because we are his children.

Let's talk more about how our new life in Jesus restores us ...

Discussion Questions:

- *What kinds of hard things did Pastor Javier talk about in the video?*
- *How did God help Pastor Javier and his family?*
- *How is Pastor Javier's life different now?*
- *What kinds of hard things have you gone through in your life?*

- *How has God helped you during those hard things?*
- *What is God's promise to us as part of our new life in Jesus?*

Activity: Restoration Game

Needed Supplies: Jenga game or wooden blocks

This game may be helpful as you discuss what “restoration” means. Build two (2) towers out of the blocks then break the kids up into two (2) teams. Smash the towers and see which team can “restore” their tower the fastest. Play several times, if time permits, and keep score of how many times each team wins.