

# 06 GIVE A DEFENSE

KEY TEXT: 1 PETER 3:13-22

## CENTRAL truth

In our world, we all experience suffering, hurt, and discouragement. The original recipients of Peter's letter had a lot of experience with suffering, so Peter offered them encouragement. He reminded them of Jesus's ultimate victory and called them to remain devoted to Him—all while being ready to explain the reason for their faith to the unbelievers around them. **We, too, can share the reason for our hope in Jesus, even during difficult times.**

## key question

**How does the practice of baptism relate to Noah and the great flood account?**

Noah and his family were safely brought through the water by God, but those who rejected Noah and his message experienced God's judgment (see Gen. 6–8). Peter reminds believers that, in a similar way, baptism marks that we have been saved by God's work in Christ. Those who believe in Him receive new life, and baptism is a symbolic expression of this truth.

## keep in mind

- Peter tells his readers to be ready to give a defense for their faith in Jesus. Remind students that believing in the good news of Jesus is not foolish. The Gospels are historically reliable, and our faith is actually the most rational way to live. Let students know that they do not have to be the most well-spoken person in the room or have the answers to every question.
- Highlight that the water of baptism is not what brings salvation—trusting in the finished work of Jesus is how we are saved. Baptism is a symbolic expression showing that believers have died to sin and have received new life in Christ.

## application

**Why do we need to “give a defense” for the reason we have hope in Jesus? What does this look like?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students should leave group understanding that in difficult moments, they can not only cling to the hope they have in Jesus but also share the reason for their hope in Him with those around them.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Students may struggle with what it looks like to share about the hope we have in Jesus. Help them to see that we are simply sharing these things with others: Jesus's story and how encountering Jesus changed my story.

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