Main Point
This lesson from 2 Peter reminds us how faith in Jesus is needed before any good works. Our good works must be based on our faith first. Having a relationship with Jesus and having Him as our forever friend and Saviour is why we want to try to do better and do good things.

Scripture
• 2 Peter 1:5-8
  o So you should try very hard to add goodness to your faith. To goodness, add knowledge.
  o To knowledge, add the ability to control yourselves. To the ability to control yourselves, add the strength to keep going. To the strength to keep going, add godliness.
  o To godliness, add kindness for one another. And to kindness for one another, add love.
  o All these things should describe you more and more. They will make you useful and fruitful as you know our Lord Jesus Christ better.

Prayer Time
• Spend a couple of minutes in prayer; pray for…
  o Friends
  o Family
  o Those who are sick
  o For our Special Needs Ministry Community
  o For our church
  o Anything else
  • Remember to thank God for His love and how He listens to us, as well as any answers to prayer.

Praise and Worship
• In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found) – Adrienne Liesching
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn9-UNer6MQ
• Breathe – Hillsong Worship
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwPZHscjiv4
Memory Verse

- 2 Peter 1:5-8
  - So you should try very hard to add goodness to your faith. To goodness, add knowledge.
  - To knowledge, add the ability to control yourselves. To the ability to control yourselves, add the strength to keep going. To the strength to keep going, add godliness.
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Review of Last Week

- Last week we talked about being optimistic. Remember what that means? It means to think about the future and believe it will be good. We can do that because we believe in God and His will for our lives. We need to remember to focus on Him, even just a little bit. We also talked about how small the mustard seed is and we only need to do little things and God can do great things because of what we do.

- Our Live It Out Challenge last week was to remember to give a compliment. That seemed pretty easy for some of you so I changed the challenge a bit and asked you to try and give a compliment to someone who might be a bit hard to like. That is how you can do something little and then trust God to do something big.

Lesson

- I want you to think about something…I am going to ask you one very important question. What needs to happen in a person’s life for them to be saved from their sins and spend their eternal life with God in heaven?

- I hope that you said something like…
  - A person must believe and put their trust in Jesus
  - A person must ask Jesus to become their forever friend and Saviour
  - A person must believe that Jesus died on the cross for their sins and when Jesus raised from the dead, He took our sins so that we can go to heaven and be with God someday
  - Faith is the beginning of everything in a Christian’s life

- I want us to find in our Bibles, or read below, or even say from memory, the verses that we have spent the past few months learning about. Are you ready?
2 Peter 1:5-8

- So you should try very hard to add goodness to your faith. To goodness, add knowledge.
- To knowledge, add the ability to control yourselves. To the ability to control yourselves, add the strength to keep going. To the strength to keep going, add godliness.
- To godliness, add kindness for one another. And to kindness for one another, add love.
- All these things should describe you more and more. They will make you useful and fruitful as you know our Lord Jesus Christ better.

- Good job everyone!
- I want to take some time to talk about what these verses mean. You have all done an amazing job of learning the words, but we want to make sure you understand what is being said in these verses.
- In verse 5, Peter, who wrote these verses, begins by telling us that we need to add to our faith. Remember what I said above? That faith is the start of a Christian’s life! This means that our faith in Jesus comes first. Everything we do comes after our faith in Jesus.
- So, after Peter said that our faith comes first, he made a list of good things for us to do and be after we have put our faith in Jesus and that He died on the cross for us.
- In the verses that we have been memorizing, there are a list of words that talk about how we should live. Anyone remember what these words are called?
- That’s right, they are called virtues. What is a virtue?
- A virtue is ways that we can live a life that is good – doing the right thing and making good choices.
- Let’s go through the different virtues that are found in the verses that we have been learning.
- So, let’s talk about the virtues that we need to add to our faith.
  - Goodness
    - This means to show excellent quality. We are to do the right thing and make good choices. When we talk about being good, we are looking at doing what God wants us to do, so that we can grow closer in our relationship with Him.
  - Knowledge
    - This is knowing about something. When we talk about having knowledge, we are talking about reading our Bibles so that we
You can get to know who God is, what He wants us to do. By getting smarter about a subject, such as who God is and how much He loves us, we will want to learn more so that we can get closer to Him.

- After we put our faith in Jesus, it is good to have goodness and knowledge, but our faith must come first to hold the goodness and knowledge together in our lives.

  - Self-control
    - We knew this in our verse as having the ability to control ourselves, our actions, feelings and words. We need to control these in order to live more as God wants us to live. By doing what God wants, we are going to be stronger in that, and have less anger and need to do things our own way. Remember, God’s way is always better.
    - God wants us to have a life full of goodness, knowledge and self-control, but first we must put our faith in Him. Without faith in Jesus and what He did for us on the cross, our good works in our lives will fall apart.

  - Perseverance
    - This is a big word that means to have the strength to keep going, even when life gets hard. It means to move in the right direction at all times and not give up. This sure is hard to do sometimes but it helps us to be stronger and to grow to be more like Jesus. Remember, Jesus is always with us and He promises to help us so don’t give up, even when it gets hard!
    - In order to have perseverance in our lives, we must first have faith in Jesus. It is hard to keep your life moving in the right direction if you don’t know the right direction in the first place. Having faith in Jesus helps you to know the right direction – which is moving towards God.

  - Godliness
    - I think we all want to be able to live like Jesus. Godliness is just that – living in the way God would want us to live. We have the Bible that we can look at for how we should live. It has so many great verses and stories with examples of what a godly life would look like.
    - We cannot know how to live in the way God wants us to unless we first put our faith in Him. Faith comes before all other good things that we do in our lives.
o Kindness
  ▪ Kindness is caring about others around you. It is being friendly, helpful and generous to people, to your friends, your family, your neighbours, and those who you come into contact with in our day-to-day lives. Showing kindness can be many different things such as doing something nice for someone, helping, sending an encouraging message, and even praying for someone. We all can show kindness as that shows that we are the hands and feet of Jesus; we are doing what He would do.
  ▪ Understanding how much God cares of us, enough to send Jesus to die on the cross for our sins will help us to then care for others. Our faith in Jesus must come first before we show kindness to others.

o Love
  ▪ Love is special because love should be a part of every good thing we do in our lives. We should grow in knowledge because we love God. We should have self-control over our words and actions because we love others. We should have perseverance out of our love of God and others. 1 Corinthians 16:14 says, “do everything in love.”
  ▪ Another thing about love; love is unique because it covers all the good deeds you do in your life. Yet even love is held together by your faith in Jesus dying on the cross for our sins.

• Let’s read through the verses one more time.
  o 2 Peter 1:5-8
    ▪ So you should try very hard to add goodness to your faith. To goodness, add knowledge.
    ▪ To knowledge, add the ability to control yourselves. To the ability to control yourselves, add the strength to keep going. To the strength to keep going, add godliness.
    ▪ To godliness, add kindness for one another. And to kindness for one another, add love.
    ▪ All these things should describe you more and more. They will make you useful and fruitful as you know our Lord Jesus Christ better.

• Why does God want us to live out this list of good things in our lives? We live out these good things to show our love and faith in Jesus. These good things are the fruit in our lives. Our faith in Jesus and believing that He died on the cross for our sins and rose again, so that we can go to heaven to be with
Jesus someday. The Christian life begins with faith and then has love poured all over it.

Application and Group Discussion

- How do we add each of the following to our faith? Talk about the examples below and try to think of some other examples for each.
  - Goodness – reading our Bibles and praying before we go to bed
  - Knowledge – memorizing Bible verses
  - Self-control – choosing to listen to what someone has to say rather than interrupt them
  - Perseverance – showing kindness to someone who is not kind to you
  - Godliness – learning about being godly from the different people in the Bible
  - Kindness – sending an encouraging card, email or text to someone who might need it
  - Love – spending time with friends and family

Live it Out Challenge

- This week, pick one of the virtues and follow through with one of the examples written above, or choose a new one. Come back to class and share what you did and how it grows your faith.

Additional Learning

- This is the time where people can work on the worksheets.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-8
Crossword Puzzle

Across
2. showing kindness to someone who is not kind to you
6. not interrupting someone when you really want to say something
7. praying before you go to bed
8. sending someone an encouragement card

Down
1. memorizing Bible verses
3. trusting in God
4. spending time with family and friends
5. learning about being godly from the different people in the Bible

Words
Faith, Godliness, Goodness, Kindness, Knowledge, Love, Perseverance, Self control