



LESSON 8

January 25, 2026

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

PERSEVERANCE ON MARS

On February 18, 2021, NASA's Mars Perseverance rover landed on Mars and began its mission of looking for signs that life may've existed at some point in the red planet's distant past. After five years of driving across twenty-five miles of dirt and rock, the plucky science vehicle has been determined by mission specialists to be in excellent shape. They have cleared "Percy" for at least another five years and thirty-seven miles. "The rover is in excellent shape," says Steve Lee, the Perseverance deputy project manager from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "Its systems are fully capable of supporting a very long-term mission to extensively explore more fascinating regions of Mars."

PERSEVERANCE IN LIFE

Today's reading includes four New Testament passages concerning Simon Peter. Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he invites two fishermen, brothers Andrew and Peter, to be his disciples. When Jesus later tests these disciples, asking who he is, it is Peter who declares that Jesus is the Messiah. After Jesus' resurrection, he comes to Peter, "the Rock," to challenge him. When Peter claims to love Jesus, the Lord tells him to respond by feeding his sheep. Nearer to the end of Peter's life, he can write with personal conviction about the patience that God shows each person.

1. What's the most resilient machine you know of?
2. How was Peter able to recover from his serious failures as a disciple of Jesus?
3. Where is an area of your life where God is teaching you perseverance?

Additional Resources

Any videos or web materials are for your personal use. If you play any media files in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Playlists

[Contemporary Worship Weekly](#)

[Echoes Worship Weekly](#) (featuring African-American music artists)

[Traditional Worship Weekly](#)

Study Resources

Commentary: [Jennifer Garcia Bashaw's "Commentary on John 21:1-19"](#)

Devotional: [Theology of Work, "Peter Disowns Jesus"](#)

Video: [BibleProject's "The Book of 2 Peter"](#)