



2 Peter



know better

GROW DEEP STAND FIRM

series guide



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How to Use This Guide

Our hope is that each week you will bring this guide with you. It's a way to dive deeper into the sermon through studying the passage before service, taking notes and reflections during the service, then using the questions to discuss the sermon with your community group.

It's a way to keep your group in sync, help you unlock new riches of God's word, and help you focus on what the Spirit may be calling you to do this week. We've also added some space for a prayer journal. Use this journal in your community group to remember and pray for your group throughout the week, or use it for other friends and family at Bethany.

As we study God's word, our love for Christ grows greater each day. This is just another simple tool to help you study God's word in new and God-honoring ways, as well as to connect to Scripture together with your community group.

Week 1

Know The Lord

2 Peter 1:1-2

Weekly Digital Bulletin

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Weekly Sermon Post

Access notes, a manuscript, and the weekly livestream on our website. Use the QR code to get to this week's sermon.



Week 1

2 Peter 1:1-2

¹Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours
by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: ²May
grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God
and of Jesus our Lord.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 1: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What unique role did you have in your family growing up? (For example: oldest, baby, funny person, organizer, peacemaker)

Discussion Questions:

What Biblical background does God give us about Peter to help inform the way we read his letters?

In what sense does someone 'obtain' a faith?

What comes to mind when you think about 'knowing' God?

Application Questions:

How has God shaped you to uniquely serve Him in your life?

What would it look like for you to live in deeper unity with others as you follow Jesus together?

Next Step Opportunity

Join a community group.
Following Jesus doesn't happen alone.



Week 2

Know The Promises

2 Peter 1:3-4

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Week 2

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 2: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?

Discussion Questions:

What is included in what we've been granted by divine power?

What has God called us to and what implications does that have for us?

In what sense are we partakers of the divine nature?

Application Questions:

In what ways are you tempted to doubt the sufficiency of God's provision?

How can you more deeply cherish the promises God has made?

How have God's promises enabled you to escape the world's corruption caused by sinful desires?

Week 3

Know The Effort

2 Peter 1:5-7

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Week 3

2 Peter 1:5-7

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 3: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

If people had to use three words to describe you when you were in high school, what might they be?

Discussion Questions:

What does it mean to 'supplement' your faith and what is the reason Peter gives for doing so?

What might 'every effort' include?

When are you most tempted to lessen the efforts you make in following Jesus?

Application Questions:

What kind of season are you in currently in your effort to follow Jesus: stagnant, increasing, or decreasing, and why?

Which of the qualities Peter lists stands out as one for you to work on most?

Week 4

Know The Calling

2 Peter 1:8-11

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Week 4

2 Peter 1:8-11

⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 4: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What have you spent a lot of time, money, or energy on in the past that you now feel might have been a waste?

Discussion Questions:

What is the difference between a fruitful and an unfruitful outcome in your life?

Why does Peter liken a lack of the qualities listed in verses 6-7 to nearsightedness and blindness?

How does our memory of being cleansed from our sins relate to the presence of these qualities in our lives?

Application Questions:

What would it look like for you to diligently confirm your calling and election this week?

How is our welcome into Christ's kingdom richly provided?

Next Step Opportunity

Become a member of Bethany by starting the membership process.



Week 5

Know The Burden

2 Peter 1:12-15

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Week 5

2 Peter 1:12-15

¹²Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 5: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

Share a time when you forgot something important.

Discussion Questions:

Why do we need reminders?

How do we avoid becoming tired of pastors and teachers telling us things we think we already know?

What reality drove Peter to persistently remind his flock of basic truths?

Application Questions:

What reminders can you utilize in your life to keep gospel truths in front of you?

Are there people in your life you require courage to continue reminding of gospel truths? If so, who are they?

What practical habits or routines will you set up to help yourself remember what God has taught?

Week 6

Know The Word

2 Peter 1:16-21

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Week 6

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 6: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What kinds of cleverly devised myths are in the world?

Discussion Questions:

Why is it important that Jesus's resurrection is a historical fact with named witnesses?

What account does Peter cite as an eyewitness and what might have prompted him to bring it up in this letter? What is the prophetic word Peter is referring to and in what sense is it more fully confirmed?

What makes the prophecies in Scripture unique in terms of where they come from and where they do not?

Application Questions:

In what specific environments might God's word be like a light shining in a dark place?

How are you tempted to downgrade the position of God's Scripture in your life?

In what ways do people today elevate sources outside of Scripture for divine guidance?

Week 7

Know The Danger

2 Peter 2:1-3

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Week 7

2 Peter 2:1-3

¹But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ²And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 7: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What are some scams you have run into or heard about?

Discussion Questions:

Why did and why does God allow fake prophets and false teachers?

What do false teachers do? How does one recognize a false teacher? What does God allow false teachers to accomplish?

What is the end of false teachers? In what sense can condemnation be past, present, and yet still future?

Application Questions:

What are some false teachers you've encountered in life and where?

What habits do you have to reinforce healthy levels of discernment in your life?

If false teaching and unbiblical thinking were to creep into your life, what avenues might they most likely come through (relationships, media, environments, etc.)?

Week 8

Know The Judgment

2 Peter 2:4-10

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Week 8

2 Peter 2:4-10

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 8: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What were some things you sometimes got away with as a kid?

Discussion Questions:

What event does Peter refer to when speaking of the judgment of angels?

What historical events does Peter refer to as examples of God's judgment of the ungodly and preservation of the righteous?

What does bold and willful blasphemy look like and why is it that mighty angels don't even dare enter into such behavior?

Application Questions:

What kinds of wickedness stand out as being especially under threat of God's judgment?

To what extent can you relate (or not) to Lot's struggle with living in an unrighteous environment?

Where in your life do you find it most difficult to believe that God will bring justice in judgment for sin and rescue for the righteous?

Week 9

Know The Destruction

2 Peter 2:11-16

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Week 9

2 Peter 2:11-16

¹¹ whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. ¹² But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, ¹³ suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! ¹⁵ Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶ but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 9: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What is your experience (or lack thereof) with hunting?

Discussion Questions:

What does Peter liken these people to and why?

How does a heart become trained in greed?

How does the account of Balaam relate to this passage (see Numbers 22-24)?

Application Questions:

In what specific ways has your appetite for sin been either increasing or decreasing?

What might it look like for your soul to be steady or unsteady in ways that leave you vulnerable to or protected from enticement?

What are some practical ways you can train your heart to be selfless instead of greedy?

Week 10

Know The Lie

2 Peter 2:17-22

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Week 10

2 Peter 2:17-22

¹⁷These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²²What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 10: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What is one of the worst storms you've experienced?

Discussion Questions:

What analogy does Peter make in 2:17 and why?

In what sense can the gloom of utter darkness be reserved?

How do false teachers entice others? What kinds of false teachers are you aware of in the world today?

Application Questions:

What does it mean to barely escape? What kinds of freedom and slavery does Peter contrast?

Where has spiritual freedom or slavery manifested in your life (past or present)?

What might it look like for someone to again become entangled in what they once had escaped?

Week 11

Know The Predictions

2 Peter 3:1-3

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Week 11

2 Peter 3:1-3

¹This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ²that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 11: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What is something you need to be reminded about continually?

Discussion Questions:

Why does it matter that Peter calls his readers ‘beloved’?

What truths does Peter think are worthy of reminding those he loves about?

What does scoffing look like?

Application Questions:

Why can scoffing sometimes catch us off guard or discourage us?

Where are you most likely to encounter scoffing in your life?

What are godly responses to scoffing you can prepare to offer?

Week 12

Know The Desire

2 Peter 3:4-9

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Week 12

2 Peter 3:4-9

⁴They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ⁵For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 12: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What is one of the hardest things to wait for?

Discussion Questions:

Why would someone 'deliberately overlook' a fact?

What historical event does Peter refer to in this passage?

What fact does Peter encourage us not to overlook and why?

Application Questions:

Why is it tempting to view God's patience as slowness?

Are there any steps of repentance that God is patiently calling you to take?

Think of a person who is close to you but far from God whom you can take a step to pray for or share the gospel with this week. Who is it?

Week 13

Know The Future

2 Peter 3:10-13

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Week 13

2 Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 13: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What days or events did you long for so eagerly that you moved from mere waiting to ‘hastening’?

Discussion Questions:

Why does God describe his day as coming ‘like a thief’?

What should we expect in the future and how should that impact the way we live now?

What does Peter describe as a defining characteristic of the new heavens and new earth? What parts of your life long for that and what parts of your life might be incompatible with that vision?

Application Questions:

What might it look like for you to not only ‘wait’ for the coming day of God but to ‘hasten’ it?

Are there any areas, relationships, or routines in your life that God is bringing to mind for you to change to be better prepared for the day of the Lord?

What step might God be calling you to take to live a life of greater holiness and godliness?

Week 14

Know The Scriptures

2 Peter 3:14-16

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Week 14

2 Peter 3:14-16

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 14: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

What was your hardest subject in school?

Discussion Questions:

In what condition does Peter encourage us to be found by God at His coming?

In what sense can we count the patience of God as salvation?

What is significant doctrinally about Peter's reference to Paul's writings?

Application Questions:

How can you deepen peace among your church family?

What can you do to better comprehend an area of doctrine that is more difficult for you to understand?

What can you do to protect yourself from twisting or from being deceived by those who twist Scripture?

Week 15

Know Better

2 Peter 3:17-18

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Week 15

2 Peter 3:17-18

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Devotional

What is the writer saying?

How can you apply this to your life?

Week 15: Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

Name some conspiracies you're familiar with.

Discussion Questions:

How do people get carried away?

What does it mean to lose your stability?

How does one grow in grace and knowledge?

Application Questions:

How can you take care to not be carried away?

What steps might God be calling you to take to grow in grace and knowledge?

How can you contribute towards the spiritual stability of others in your sphere of influence?



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