



POWER UNDER PRESSURE

A Study In 2 Peter
FOR INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND FAMILIES

MARK DRISCOLL

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Power Under Pressure. A Study in 2 Peter for Individuals, Families, & Groups.

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INTRODUCTION

The first version of this Bible study resource was originally published in 2009. It was the result of a joint effort from myself and a research team. This is an updated version of that resource that I hope helps you and those you love to learn from the leader of the disciples who spent three years learning directly from Jesus Christ. In addition to this study guide, you can find the sermons I preached on 1-2 Peter in 2020 at **realfaith.com** or the free Real Faith app, along with the study guide for 1 Peter called “Odd Life Good God” in addition to hundreds and hundreds of other sermons and other free Bible teaching resources made possible by the generosity of financial partners in ministry.

Mark Driscoll

CHAPTER 1

GETTING FAMILIAR WITH THE LETTER OF 2 PETER

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...” – 2 Peter 1:3

Roughly two-thousand years ago, there was a fisherman who was working at his family business with his brother Andrew in Israel. The brothers came from a religious Jewish family, and Andrew became a follower of a new up and coming rabbi (teacher) who had amazing character and insights into the Scriptures. Soon, Andrew’s conversations with his brother piqued his interest enough that Peter agreed to meet rabbi Jesus for himself.

Before long, the brothers were early members of Jesus’ ministry, leaving the family business to spend three years learning the Scriptures from and doing ministry with Jesus. Eventually, there were 12 men who comprised the group of disciples who learned from and did life and ministry together with Jesus, including Andrew and Peter.

Everything in Peter’s life changed in ways he could have never anticipated on the day he started following Jesus. The same is true of everyone who has followed in His footsteps since. Peter lived one of the most amazing lives of anyone in world history.

Peter spent three years with Jesus watching the miracles, hearing the sermons, and joining the prayers. Peter was not only one of the 12 disciples; he became one of Jesus’ three closest friends along with James and John, present at intimate times in the Lord’s life when others were not. Peter was chosen by Jesus as the leader of the disciples, which is why his name always appears first when they are listed in Scripture.

Like every Christian other than Christ, Peter was far from perfect.

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He was known to boss Jesus around, get angry and pull a sword now and then, as well as denying Christ to save his own skin. He can be emotional, volatile, and unpredictable, which is why Christians in every generation have been fond of this spiritual father. Peter is often a mess for his Messiah, but his life proves that God can do perfect work through imperfect people. Peter rarely got it right the first time, or even the second or third time, but he eventually got it right with Jesus' help.

Jesus knew Peter's heart was for Him, so He entrusted leadership to him. For all of us, the first thing we need is the "want to". The next thing we need is the "how to". Peter wanted to obey Jesus' call on his life, and, through trial and error, he figured out how to do so. Peter saw Jesus die on the cross for sins, rise from death as savior, and return to Heaven where He is now seated. Jesus met personally with Peter to assign him the role of leading and feeding the new Christians in the Church. Peter took this assignment seriously and, as an older more seasoned and mature man, he leads with the authority and love of an incredible spiritual father. This includes writing 1-2 Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to lead Christians and Christian churches in every generation until Jesus returns.

To help you get the most out of your study of 2 Peter, the rest of this study guide will get you broadly familiar with the book, and then help you unpack its specific teachings in each chapter and verse. If you would like more information on 1 Peter, there is a free study guide and sermon series at realfaith.com.

THE AUTHOR AND DATE OF 2 PETER

Although critics will provide alternate theories, there is ample evidence to accept Peter as the author of the New Testament books of 1-2 Peter. Here's the case that 1-2 Peter makes for the authorship of Peter:

- 1 Peter 1:1 – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Peter 5:1 – ...a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ.
- 2 Peter 1:1 – Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ.
- 2 Peter 1:16-18 – 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. For when

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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," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

•2 Peter 3:1 – This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved.

•2 Peter 3:15-16 – Our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as 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.

If the author is not Peter, then who is the author in light of this impressive list of reasons to believe the simple fact that it's Peter? Perhaps another author is possible, but who in the world could be considered probable other than Peter? Who else is one of the 12 apostles chosen by Jesus, a well-known early church leader, suffered and served for Christ, were eyewitnesses to Jesus' earthly ministry, was one of the few people on the Mount of Transfiguration when God the Father spoke from heaven, also wrote 2 Peter in addition to 1 Peter, was close friends with Paul, and had the spiritual authority to confirm Paul's writings as "Scripture"? The evidence clearly points to Peter as the author of the two books bearing his name in the Bible.

THE DATE OF THE WRITING OF 2 PETER

The exact date of the writing of 2 Peter is unclear. It had to be after the first letter and written by the same author as 2 Peter 3:1 says, "This 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..."

Concerning the timing of the writing of 1 Peter, a date during the reign of the godless ruler Nero (AD 54–68) is considered by many scholars the most likely timeframe. Since Peter makes no reference to Paul's martyrdom that likely happened when persecution broke out against Christians in Rome in 64 AD, 1 Peter was most likely written before then. The death of Paul would have been something worthy of note and so the silence is telling. Furthermore, that Peter encourages Christians to submit to the Emperor seems most likely before

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Christians were being slaughtered as martyrs (1 Peter 2:13). The most common summary conclusion among Bible scholars is that 1-2 Peter were written somewhere around AD 63-64.

Also, 2 Peter was written at a time when the New Testament letters of Paul had been widely circulated and accepted among the Christian churches. We are told in 2 Peter 3:15-16, “count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters.” It is most likely that 2 Peter was written at the end of the first century, or early in the second century.

THE RECIPIENTS OF 2 PETER

The primary recipients of 2 Peter are the same churches and Christians who received the letter of 1 Peter. It's clearly stated in 2 Peter 3:1 “This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved.” According to 1 Peter 1:1-2, these Christians and churches were scattered “in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia”. This is a geographic area roughly the size of the state of Arizona, where our family lives and does ministry, and is today in the nation of Turkey.

The secondary recipients of 2 Peter are all other churches and Christians from that day to our own and into the future. Peter indicates this writing in 2 Peter 1:1: “To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ...”

What Peter appeals to for everyone who reads his letters is a life of devotion focused on Jesus Christ that keeps us walking by faith until we see Him by sight. For this to happen, God's people who are living under incredible pressure need “His divine power” because in it we find the source for “life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). In summary, 2 Peter is for any Christian who needs to experience God's power under the pressure of life.

THE PURPOSE OF 2 PETER

There are two primary purposes for the writing of 2 Peter.

One, the churches and Christians were experiencing an escalating battle externally with the Roman culture and government. When

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1 Peter was written, there was a growing bias and disdain against Christianity that was not yet at the level of government-sponsored persecution. In 1 Peter 1:6, these are called, “various trials” which have Christians “grieved”. When 2 Peter was written, things had gotten worse and the culture and government of the Roman Empire were headed toward a “fiery trial” (1 Peter 4:12). These prophetic words would be fulfilled in AD 64 when a fire broke out in Rome, burning much of the great city to the ground. The Emperor Nero found a scapegoat in the minority group of early Christians who were basically falsely declared terrorists who started the fire. This resulted in widespread martyrdom of Christians that was a bit like the treatment of Jews and other groups in Nazi Germany.

Two, the churches and Christians were experiencing an escalating battle internally with false teachers seeking to hijack the message of Christianity by blending it with a popular ideology in that day. The Gnostic heresy was perhaps the most powerful counterfeit to the gospel in the early church and included some church leaders falling prey to the false teaching. Rooted in Greek philosophy, Gnosticism held a strong division between the physical as evil and the spiritual as good. The result was that they denied that Jesus occupied a physical body or rose from the dead physically, which are essential aspects of the Christian gospel. Entire books, like 1 John and Colossians, are written in large part to refute these kinds of Gnostic false teachings.

A Bible dictionary quoting one scholar says, “Gnosticism is Christianity perverted by learning and speculation’...The intellectual pride of the Gnostics changed the gospel into a philosophy. The clue to the understanding of Gnosticism is found in the Greek word from which its name is derived—gnōsis, ‘knowledge’. The Gnostics claimed to be the elite, the wise, the philosophers, to whom was revealed a secret knowledge which the overwhelming mass of mankind could never know.”¹

As Christianity spread from largely Jewish to Gentile cultures and languages, there was a growing risk that syncretism would blend biblical Christianity with pagan philosophy thereby creating a cult instead of the Church. Syncretism is always Jesus plus something else—usually a religious or spiritual belief that does not agree with biblical Christianity. It was commonly accepted in the ancient Roman Empire that a person could choose religion and spirituality like a

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salad bar-picking and choosing whatever they wanted—so long as above all loyalty was their devotion to the Emperor as Lord. One church history source summarizes this saying, “Romans had an affinity for selective borrowing from the cultures around them, especially from peoples they had conquered, and this was clearly evident in Roman religion. Thus the traditions, characteristics and mythology of the Greek pantheon are reproduced in Roman tradition, so that, for example, Zeus is renamed Jupiter; Hera becomes Juno; and Ares, the god of war, is called Mars. Rome was very willing to honor any new god who might present itself, and the pontifex maximus, the high priest, would coordinate celebrations for the many deities. The only provision made by Rome was that a group must not promote theirs as the only god, and it was on these grounds that a basic conflict with the Christian church was to develop.”²

Christians were seen as outcasts, rebels, and an oddly annoying minority group because they were determined to not compromise their faith by adding elements from other religious and spiritual groups. For the ancient Christians, it was always Jesus, and only Jesus! In response, the culture and government of the Roman Empire increased the pressure for Christians to compromise until full-fledged persecution broke out to eliminate the Church altogether. This same process that 1-2 Peter addresses is the same cycle that the Church in every generation and culture faces as the nations and religions change, but the demonic powers at work behind them remain the same. The encouragement of 2 Peter 2:9 is an anchor for the soul in every nation and generation, “The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials.”

CHAPTER 2

A 4-PART STUDY OF 2 PETER FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

The best way to start learning any book of the Bible is to simply read it over and over. Thankfully, that is an easy task with 2 Peter. Since it is only 61 verses long, it can be read in roughly just 10 minutes.

In addition to Bible reading for yourself, the following study guide is intended to help individuals and groups learn 1 Peter. Please use this guide as tools and not rules. As the Holy Spirit guides your time in Scripture, and as you have discussion with others, the goal is not finishing the guide but rather meeting with God through learning the Bible. Consider this guide more as a compass pointing you in a direction than a map that directs your every step. For example, most weeks there will be more questions for the “Talk it Out” section than can be covered in one group time together, and this is intentional so that people can choose the questions they find most helpful from a menu of options. The format for each week lays out as follows:

1. Scripture for each week
2. Introduction and overview of each week’s Scripture
3. Think it out: Questions for personal study
4. Talk it out: Questions for group discussion
5. Walk it out: Questions for personal action
6. Pray it out: Ways for group members to pray together

WEEK 1: 2 PETER 1:1-15

Scripture:

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. ³His 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, ⁴by 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. 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. 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. 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.

Introduction and overview:

Peter begins his second letter to Christians who were increasingly despised and opposed in their culture as they were seeking to learn how they could continue to become like Christ and point others to Christ. The tone of the letter is like that of a spiritual father with a family who wants to do what is right and is wrestling with how to do it.

Peter teaches all Christians that, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). The Christian life is, contrary to a lot of popular opinion, a life we live for

God. No, the Christian life is God working for us in Jesus, as well as in us and through us by the Holy Spirit. This truth provides the courage to live through suffering for Christ, and the humility to live through the Spirit like Christ.

Think it out: Questions for personal study

1. Peter says that all Christians have “equal standing” with him in Christ. Do you really and truly believe that there is no such thing as junior varsity Christians, and that you are as loved, forgiven, and empowered as Peter?
2. List out the things that Peter warns us are working against our progress in Christian living. Which of these items is most difficult for you?
3. List out the virtues that God the Holy Spirit wants to grow in you by His “divine power”. Which one have you made the most progress in? Which one(s) still need the most progress?
4. Peter says that to make sense of this life, we have to keep God’s eternal rewards on our horizon.
5. Peter says that there are things we need to remind one another of. What are the most important things that you know, but sometimes forget, and need to be reminded about (e.g. reading Scripture, confessing our sin, forgiving others, praying, worshipping, giving, serving, etc.)?

Talk it out: Questions for group discussion

1. Peter talks about being a “servant” “of Christ”. Who has been the most helpful to you in your Christian walk? Who has God called you to serve in this season?
2. Peter talks about stirring up passion for Christian living in fellow believers. How can we encourage one another practically during the week to continue moving forward in our faith walk?
3. Peter talks about how he could not be physically with them, and one day would die, but that they could continue to learn about and grow in Christ without him. Who has served you in your past in this way? Who are you praying continues to walk with Jesus even when you are not present with them, or alive on the earth? How can we join you in prayer for them (e.g. spouse, friend, child, grandchild)?

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4. Peter says that the Christian can become so “near sighted” that they are essentially “blind”. This happens when we lose sight of the judgement of our lives for eternal rewards in the Kingdom of Heaven. In which area(s) are you most prone to nearsightedness—thinking and focusing on the short-term instead of long-term?

Walk it out: Questions for personal action

1. Since it takes around 10 minutes to read 2 Peter, will you commit to reading it every day for the next month?
2. Peter wrote a letter to communicate encouragement to believers who were suffering and struggling. Who do you know that would benefit from you following his example and writing a letter to them?
3. Who do you need to stir up a passion in for continuing to mature as a Christian? How can you encourage and motivate them in love?

Pray it out: Ways for group members to pray together

1. Of all the negative things Peter lists, which one would you like prayer for the most so that you can walk in victory over it?
2. Of all the positive things Peter lists, which one would you like prayer for the most to make that a focused area of growth in your life?
3. Peter is writing to numerous small churches that operated a lot like small groups that meet in homes. What kind of relationships would result if your group followed his instruction? How can you be praying together to foster that environment for healthy relationships?

WEEK 2: 2 PETER 1:16-21

Scripture:

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For 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," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And 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, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Introduction and overview:

To get a word from God, you need to open the Word of God. In every generation, certain trends in political theory, philosophy, spirituality, and every other area of academic discipline become fashionable. They come and go, but 1 Peter 1:24-25 already told us, "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." We are a few thousand years removed from Peter, but his words have proven true. Today, the Bible is the best-selling, most-read, most-translated, and most-beloved book in the history of the world. Why? Because it is revelation from God the Holy Spirit delivered through human authors that unleashes God's power for life change. Peter uses his own testimony to help reinforce this fact, as what was written about Jesus in the Scriptures was also witnessed by Peter himself.

Think it out: Questions for personal study

1. What are "cleverly devised myths" that you have fallen into believing in your past or present?
2. Do you believe that the books of the Bible actually came from God the Holy Spirit through human authors? Why or why not?

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3. What topic, or book of the Bible, has God laid on your heart a curiosity to study?
4. Are there any changes you should make to your routine to increase your time in God's Word (e.g. listening to the Bible on your commute or while doing chores)?

Talk it out: Questions for group discussion

1. How important is it to you to know that Peter was an eyewitness to the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? How does Peter's life experience with Jesus add to his credibility about Jesus?
2. How is this world dark, and the Word of God a light not just in general but in a very specific area of your life?
3. What practical things has each group member found most helpful to learn God's Word?
4. Which person is a good example for you to aspire to with their knowledge and application of the Bible?

Walk it out: Questions for personal action

1. Do you have a good study Bible for yourself (e.g. the English Standard Version Study Bible)?
2. Is there anyone you know who could benefit from a good Bible as a gift from you?
3. Since the Bible is alone perfect and from God, what is your Bible reading plan to be in God's Word?
4. Is there anyone you know that you should meet with to ask about how to grow in God's Word since that is an area of strength for them?

Pray it out: Ways for group members to pray together

1. Is there anyone in the group who needs a good Bible (e.g. the English Standard Version Study Bible) that the group could pray for and give a new Bible as a gift?
2. Is there anyone in the group who is new to Bible reading and study that has practical questions to get started and could use prayer support as they begin their Bible journey?
3. How can we be praying for one another to have a book of the Bible or topic in the Bible that God lays on each of our hearts to

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study in depth?

4. What areas of your life feel “dark” right now and you need God to shed some “light” on?
5. What one thing are you most grateful for about the fact that God has given you His Word?

WEEK 3: 2 PETER 2:1-22**Scripture:**

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. ⁴For 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; ⁵if 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; ⁶if 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; ⁷and 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); ⁹then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, ¹⁰and 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, ¹¹whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. ¹²But 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, ¹³suffering 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. ¹⁴They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! ¹⁵Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶but was rebuked for his own transgression;

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a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. 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."

Introduction and overview:

Everything God creates, Satan counterfeits.

God creates teachers, Satan counterfeits with false teachers.

God creates truth, Satan counterfeits with lies.

God creates freedom from sin, Satan counterfeits with slavery to sin.

Romans 12:9 says that Christian discernment is required to, "Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." Peter spends this entire chapter illustrating this very point in incredibly passionate and clear terms to warn us about deception that is often powerful, pleasurable, and profitable but ultimately demonic, deceptive, and damnable.

Think it out: Questions for personal study

1. Read through the section of Scripture and underline everything that explains the truth of God.
2. Read through the section of Scripture and circle everything that explains the lie of the counterfeit.
3. What are some reasons that Peter gives to explain why false

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teachings and demonic counterfeits are so popular and enticing?

4. What examples does Peter give from the Old Testament of God judging false teachers and their demonic counterfeit?
5. What is the significance of Balaam in this passage (Numbers 25)?

Talk it out: Questions for group discussion

1. Are you more prone to be a trusting person who has a hard time believing that the world is filled with false-teachers, or more prone to be a suspicious person who can too quickly rush to judge a Bible teacher for an error?
2. What are the reasons Peter gives that explain why false teachers are so powerful, popular, and persuasive?
3. What issues have you had to stand against in your walk with Jesus because they were not secondary issues Christians disagree on, but primary issues which are dividing lines between Christians and non-Christians?
4. What is the difference between an imperfect Christian leader (like Peter) and a counterfeit Christian leader (like Judas)?

Walk it out: Questions for personal action

1. What good Bible teachers and Bible study resources do you need to make a priority in your life to help you be godly and wise?
2. What information sources (e.g. preachers, politicians, media, teachers, social media, etc.) are not beneficial or helpful and therefore need to be reduced or removed from your life?
3. Pray to God asking Him to reveal any area in your life where you accommodate false teaching to excuse some sin that you enjoy (e.g. sexual sin or other pleasure that displeases God)?

Pray it out: Ways for group members to pray together

1. Is there any false teaching or counterfeit that a group member is struggling to distance themselves from that you can pray for and lovingly and gently support?
2. Do you have any family or friends who have fallen prey to what is clearly false teaching that we can be praying come into right

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relationship with Jesus and escape the trap the Enemy has set for them?

3. What attributes on the list of false teachers are temptations for you to possibly fall into (e.g. arrogance, defiance of authority, excusing personal sin, unhealthy sexual lust, greed, etc.)?

WEEK 4: 2 PETER 3:1-18**Scripture:**

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. 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. 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. 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. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸But 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.

Introduction and overview:

Peter closes his letter by repeating his love for the people with the warm term “beloved” that he has used repeatedly in reference to them (1 Peter 2:11, 4:12; 2 Peter 3:1, 3:8, 3:14, 3:17). Peter has also used this term “beloved” to speak about his friend, the Apostle Paul (2 Peter 3:15), and reminded us that this term was also the one that God the Father used to speak of Jesus at His baptism (2 Peter 1:17). Peter begins his closing remarks by ensuring that they know that, like a spiritual father, he loves them as God the Father loved Jesus. It is hard to overemphasize how fond his affection is for them, and how this would have allowed them to trust that what he was telling them was from God, for their good, and done in love.

Think it out: Questions for personal study

List out the specific things Peter teaches us about the end of this world and the coming Kingdom of God. How does this frame your view of this world and your life in it?

Talk it out: Questions for group discussion

1. In calling the people he is leading and feeding “beloved” Peter is modeling for us the truth that we should connect before we correct. How are you at doing this same thing for others?
2. In all honestly, do you sometimes feel like God works too “slowly”?
3. What does Peter mean in saying that God is “patient” with us?
4. How was God “patient” as He waited for you to “reach repentance” and “salvation”?
5. What are you most surprised about in Peter’s prophecy about the end of this world and nature of God’s eternal Kingdom?

Walk it out: Questions for personal action

1. Peter says that Paul also wrote “Scripture”. If you have never read

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the books of the Bible Paul wrote, start by reading Romans, which is his biggest book packed with incredible insight into most every area of Christian doctrine.

2. What very practical things would most help you to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”?

Pray it out: Ways for group members to pray together

1. Peter says that God is not slow but patiently walks with people until they repent of their sins and come to salvation in Jesus Christ. Who does that bring to mind that we can be praying for as a group?
2. Based upon what Peter says about the Kingdom of Heaven, what are you most looking forward to when this world ends, and that world is all that remains? How can we pray for you to live in that hope and encouragement?
3. Who do you need to be patient with, lovingly walking with them, until they come to salvation in Jesus Christ?
4. Peter says that Paul wrote “Scriptures” in “his letters” and that some of what is written is “hard to understand”. This should encourage us as we are also uncertain exactly how to interpret a section of Scripture. Peter also warns that we would not “twist” tough “Scriptures” to our “own destruction”. Is there any section of the Bible, or subject in the Bible, that you really struggle with that we can pray you can accept and live with peaceably even if you don’t fully understand?

CHAPTER 3

A 9-PART STUDY OF 2 PETER FOR FAMILIES

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- 1 Peter 2:2-3

One of the great joys of my life is being a parent to five children with my wife Grace. Unknown to this dad, unless you introduce the correct foods at the correct growth stage children get sick, develop allergies, and their health is negatively impacted. Thankfully, each of the kids is healthy, which is in large part due to the wisdom of their mom. She did her research and knew what (and what not) to feed the kids along with when to introduce certain foods into their diet.

People, including little people, are made up of a body and a soul. As parents, God entrusts us to provide nourishment not just for their body but also for their soul. When they are little, we pray over them, sing over them, and read the Word of God aloud over them so that our child grows up in God's presence. As our kids get a bit older, we read an age appropriate children's Bible to them until they are old enough to read it to us and encourage them to pray for themselves and others as they get older. Eventually, our kids get old enough that we can start to have more advanced conversations with them about the Lord, and they learn to express their own thoughts about God in their own words and ask us questions to help their learning.

Many of these types of conversations in our family over the years happened at our dinner table. Now that our children are all in their teens and twenties, we continue to have these kinds of conversations

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over dinner as year-after-year the discussions go deeper and deeper. Our goal as parents, and my goal as head of household leading us spiritually, was to not only feed our children's bodies, but also their hearts, minds, and souls like Jesus taught so they could be healthy in every way.

We want you to enjoy these same kinds of rich conversations and healthy relationships with your kids. The following is a series of practical tools to help you get started. To be clear, none of these are rules to be strictly followed, but merely tools to get you started. Sometimes, your kids won't feel like talking about deep things and just want to hang out—which is fine. Sometimes, your kids will have something else on their mind they want to discuss—which is fine. Sometimes, you will start a conversation and it will wander off course—which is fine. The goal is not to finish a curriculum but to build a happy, holy, and healthy family. This is the heart of what of Psalm 128:3-4, which says, "Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD."

Here's a few suggestions:

1. Regularly gather around the table for family dinner as a sacred routine that is a normal and fun part of life.
2. Turn technology off so that people can connect with each other.
3. Have a Bible on the table.
4. Have someone open the meal in prayer.
5. Start the meal by simply asking questions that get everyone talking. At our house this would include questions like:
 - "Is there anything anyone is thankful for this week?"
 - "Is there anyone or anything we can be praying for this week?"
 - "What do you feel like God is teaching you lately?"
 - "Is there anything you need or that we can help you with this week?"
 - "What was your highlight this week?"
 - "What was your one sermon takeaway from church?"
 - "Is there anything you are working on or excited about in the upcoming week?"
 - "Does anyone have a funny story to share from this week?"

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If any prayer opportunities arise, take a moment right then and there to pray for that praise or need. Some issues will arise that would be best discussed privately at another time without everyone involved and it is important if a family member raises that kind of issue that the parents follow up privately to love and serve the child.

6. As a dad, this is also a good time to thank and encourage family members in front of one another so that they are built up by you and learn to build one another up. This can be thanking mom for something she did that week or encouraging the kids for something they did. The dad has a unique opportunity to set a culture of love, fun, respect, encouragement, and friendship among family members.
7. Ask the discussion questions written for each day's lesson. If your kids are older (i.e., junior high and up), you might consider using the Life Groups questions if they are better suited for your children. Lastly, parents need to let the conversation happen naturally. Listen carefully to the kids, let them answer the questions, and fill in whatever they miss or lovingly and gently explain whatever is helpful so that a pattern of trust is built encouraging the kids to bring their questions and needs to the parents in the context of a loving, fun, healthy, safe, godly relationship. If your kids don't know the answer, explain it to them, and then ask them to explain it in their own words.

WEEK 1: 2 PETER 1:1-15

Sunday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:1

Word of the Day: Servant

When Jesus was on the earth, He referred to Himself as a servant. Even though Peter was the most powerful Christian on the earth when he wrote 2 Peter, he also says that he is a "servant...of Jesus Christ". While most people don't like to serve, Christians serve people because Jesus has served us.

1. How would you describe what it means to be a servant in your own words?

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2. How do different people serve you (e.g. parents, teachers, coaches, grandparents, older siblings, etc.)?
3. What are some ways that you could serve other people, starting with the family (e.g. doing chores, helping out around the house, etc.)?

Monday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-2

Word of the Day: Equal

The Bible says that God is a Father, Christians are brothers and sisters in His family, and that God loves and serves all of His kids equally. God does not play favorites, and all of God's children have the same relationship with and help from God the Father that Peter did.

1. In your own words, what does it mean that God does not choose favorites and loves all of His kids equally?
2. What does it feel like when someone does not care about you very much?
3. Why is it good that God does not play favorites?
4. How great is it to know that God cares about you very much?
5. Who are some of the most influential Christian leaders you can think of? Do you think you have as much love from and access to God as they do? Why or why not?

Tuesday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-4

Word of the Day: Righteousness

Righteousness is God deciding that all the bad things you do are forgiven and replaced with all the good things Jesus did for you. Peter says that our righteousness comes from Jesus. This is very different from other religions where people are wrongly told to make themselves righteous. In Christianity, Jesus makes us righteous by his love and grace. Jesus did two amazing things for us on the cross. First, he died to take away our sin. Second, he died to give us his perfect and holy righteousness. Therefore, God sees us as righteous through Jesus and gives us the Holy Spirit to live a righteous life like Jesus did.

1. What is righteousness?
2. What does Jesus take from us on the cross?
3. What does Jesus give to us on the cross?

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4. Do we love God first and try to do good things so that he will love us, or does God love us first and help us to do good things?
5. Who has Jesus given us to help us live righteous lives? The Holy Spirit.
6. Explain some ways the Holy Spirit helps us to live a righteous life like Jesus (e.g. He teaches us the Bible, teaches us to pray, shows us when we are wrong, gives us the power to do the right thing, etc.).

Wednesday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-4

Word of the Day: Jesus

Peter says that Jesus Christ is “our God.” Some people say that Jesus was just a good man but not really God. But the Bible is clear that Jesus was and is God.

1. Jesus said he came down from heaven (John 6:38, 41-42, 60, 66). How does this show that Jesus is God?
2. Jesus performed miracles. How does this show that Jesus is God?
3. Jesus said he is God (Mark 14:61; John 10:30-33). Do you think Jesus would lie to us?
4. Jesus said he was sinless (John 8:46). Is there anyone but God who is perfect and sinless?
5. Jesus forgave sin (Mark 2:5). Can anyone but God forgive our sin (Ps. 51:4)?
6. Jesus said He is the only way to heaven (John 11:25; 14:6). Does anyone know the way to heaven or have the keys to open heaven besides God?
7. Do you believe Jesus was and is God? Why or why not?

Thursday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-4

Word of the Day: Divine power

Think of all the things that you need to plug in to a power source so that they can work (e.g. phone, tablet, game, etc.). Christians also need power so that we can live our life. Peter says that Christians have been given God’s divine power. This means that the Holy Spirit lives in and through Christians to empower them to live the Christian life.

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The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism and rested upon him to show that all of Jesus' life and ministry was done by the power of the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit who gave power to Jesus gives divine power to us.

1. What is divine power?
2. What does it mean that Christians have divine power?
3. What are some ways in which the Holy Spirit empowers us?
Examples include to serve God, to say no to sin, and to grow as Christians to be more like Jesus.
4. What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?

Friday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:5-15

Word of the Day: Self-control

Self-control is the ability to say no when you are supposed to. Self-control includes not letting your anger carry you away, not letting your friends talk you into trouble, and doing the right thing even when it is hard. To be good at something requires self-control. For example, athletes and musicians have to practice a lot and have self-control if they want to be any good. Like them, Christians need to work hard at practicing their faith and having self-control. And, Jesus is our perfect model of self-control because he never gave in to sin even when he was a kid.

1. What is self-control?
2. What happens to people who do not have self-control?
3. Why is it good to have self-control?
4. In what areas of your life do you feel you have self-control?
5. What are some areas of your life that you need to grow in self-control?

Saturday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:5-15

Word of the Day: Love

The kind of love that Peter is speaking of is sacrificial love. Love is sometimes what we feel, but it is always shown by what we do. Jesus loved everybody, including us. Jesus asks us to love everybody, even the people that are tough to love.

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1. What is love? Parents, you may also want to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which is a good memory verse for kids about love.
2. Is love just what we feel and say, or also what we do? Explain.
3. How have people shown you they loved you?
4. Why should we love people who are hard to love, or even our enemies?
5. How does Jesus show his love to us?

WEEK 2: 2 PETER 1:16-21

Sunday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Word of the Day: Myths

Peter says that Christianity is built on people and things that are real – like Jesus' birth to Mary, death on the cross, and resurrection from death. Other religions and false teachings are not built on historical facts like these but rather on untrue myths and speculation. They make things up that are not true which means that people who believe those things are being hurt because they are being kept from Jesus.

1. What is a myth?
2. What is the difference between a myth and a fact?
3. Is Christianity built on myth or fact? Explain.
4. Is there anything in the Bible you think may be a myth and not a fact? Explain.

Monday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Word of the Day: Lord

Peter calls Jesus "Lord." Peter means that Jesus is God who rules and reigns over everyone and everything from as King. For the Christian, Jesus is our Lord which means that we want to listen to what He says, do what He asks, and love people like He does.

1. What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?
2. Is Jesus the only Lord, or are there other gods who are lords too?
3. Who and what does Jesus rule over?
4. Why is it a good thing that Jesus is in charge and not someone else?

Tuesday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Word of the Day: Son of God

God the Father called Jesus his Son at Jesus' baptism. Jesus called himself the Son of God (e.g., John 10:36), and often referred to God as Father. Peter also calls Jesus the Son of God. He means that Jesus is the same as God the Father; they have the same attributes, such as both being the Creator just like a child oftentimes has a lot in common with their parent. When the Bible says that Jesus is the Son of God, it means that Jesus is God.

1. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
2. When was Jesus first called the Son of God? At his baptism by God the Father.
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God?
4. Is anyone else the Son of God just like Jesus is?
5. If God is a Father, and Jesus is the Son of God, how is the Church like God's Family?

Wednesday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Word of the Day: Eyewitness

Peter says that he was an eyewitness to the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter also mentions being present at the baptism of Jesus when God the Father spoke from heaven and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove so that the entire Trinity was revealed. Peter was a disciple of Jesus who learned from Jesus as they spent time together for three years. Peter heard Jesus teach, saw Jesus perform miracles, saw Jesus die, and saw Jesus after his resurrection. Therefore, no one knows more about Jesus than Peter. Peter had nothing to gain from telling lies about Jesus and was even crucified upside down for worshiping Jesus. He would not have done that if he was not sure Jesus was God.

1. What is an eyewitness?
2. Why is it important to listen to eyewitnesses if we want to know the truth about something that happened?
3. Why should we believe that Peter was telling the truth about Jesus and not lying?
4. Why is it important to know that the Bible was written by

eyewitnesses to Jesus (e.g., 1 John 1:1-4) or from the testimony of eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-4)?

Thursday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Word of the Day: Lamp

Peter says that this world is a lot like being in the dark. It can be scary, confusing, and hard to understand what is happening. This is why most kids like to have some light in their room at night. For the Christian, the Bible is like a nightlight that God gives us for this dark world.

1. What would it be like to drive a car at night with no headlights?
2. What is it like to be alone in the dark without any light?
3. What are your favorite light sources (e.g. nightlight, campfire, flashlight, lamp, etc.)?
4. How is the Bible a light that God gives us?

Friday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Word of the Day: Scripture

Peter says that the men and women who wrote the Bible did not make up what it says. Instead, they said what God the Holy Spirit inspired them to say. Inspiration means that God the Holy Spirit helped people write the exact words that God wanted them to write (see also 2 Tim. 3:16). So, Peter is teaching that the Bible was written by men and God working together, with the Holy Spirit leading them to write God's Word perfectly. This makes the Bible perfect and unlike any other book that has ever been written or ever will be written.

1. What is inspiration?
2. Who wrote the Bible?
3. Is any book as perfect as the Bible?
4. How does God the Holy Spirit speak to us through the Bible?
5. Why do you think God went to so much trouble to give us the Bible?

Saturday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Word of the Day: Holy Spirit

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When we fly a kite, the key is to get it filled with the power of the wind. Once a strong wind fills a kite, it jumps into the air to dance and soar. God wants Christians to be like a kite. For this to happen, we need to be “carried along by the Holy Spirit”. This is how the people who wrote the Bible lived, and how God wants us to live.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit? He is God
2. How did people write the Bible? By the Holy Spirit
3. How is being filled with the Holy Spirit kind of like being a kite in the wind?
4. Do you have any questions about how God the Holy Spirit works in your life?

WEEK 3: 2 PETER 2:1-22

Sunday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 2:1-10a

Word of the Day: False teachers

Peter warns Christians that there are false teachers. False teachers pretend to speak for God, but what they teach is not true and does not agree with the Bible. False teachers can be very popular, have power from the Devil, and make a lot of money. Just like children should not do what a stranger tells them, Christians should not do what false teachers tell them.

1. What is a false teacher?
2. What is the difference between a false teacher and a true teacher?
3. Why is it important to only learn from good teachers and not bad ones?
4. What are some examples of false teaching you have heard?

Monday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 2:1-10a

Word of the Day: Greed

It is a good thing to work hard and make money. Sometimes bad people want to give us money for doing something bad. If we are greedy, we can love money more than God and do bad things. The way to not be greedy is to love God more than money and the things that money can buy.

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1. Why is it a good thing to work hard and make money?
2. What is greed?
3. Why is greed a bad thing?
4. How did Judas love money more than God?

Tuesday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 2:1-10a

Word of the Day: Protection

Peter reminds Christians that God promises protection for them. Protection means that God loves us, keeps an eye on us, helps us, and gets us through this world safely into Heaven. As an example of protection, Peter mentions Noah, whom God saved from the flood, and Lot, whom God saved from the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by getting him out of town just in time. Peter is stressing that even if the world gets dark and false teachers are everywhere, we can trust God and his protection of us.

1. What is God's protection?
2. How did God protect Noah and his family?
3. How did God protect Lot?
4. Can you think of any other people in the Bible that God protected?
5. Do you believe God will protect you from condemnation and get you to heaven safely? Why or why not?
6. Parents, is there a time that God protected you or your family that you can share with your child(ren)?

Wednesday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 2:10b-22

Word of the Day: Bold

A bully is a person who pushes other people around and acts like they are in charge. Peter warns Christians that, sometimes, bad people are bold. This means they are confident, bossy, pushy, and try and make everyone do what they want rather than what God wants.

1. What is boldness?
2. How are bold people sometimes hard to stand up to?
3. Can you think of anyone in the Bible or your life who was bold but wrong?

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4. Can you remember any of the times Peter was bold but was wrong in his life? Examples include when he told Jesus what to do, and when he cut a man's ear off with a sword when he was not supposed to.

Thursday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 2:10b-22

Word of the Day: Sin

Peter says that some people like to do bad things and want other people to do the bad things as well. Peter calls these people "false teachers".

1. What is sin?
2. How do false teachers and sin work together?
3. Why do people who want to sin like false teachers?
4. What kinds of sins do you think false teachers today want people to do?
5. When you want to sin, should you believe what the Bible says or go find a false teacher to say doing a bad thing is okay? Why?

Friday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 2:10b-22

Word of the Day: Going astray

At some point, every child gets lost. This can happen by wandering off from your parents, getting lost in a crowd, or hiding. Peter says that Christians are God's children, and sometimes we can wander off as well. God wants us to stick close to our parents and also to Jesus so that we can be safe and not get hurt.

1. What does it mean to wander astray from God?
2. What are some things people do to wander astray from God?
3. Why is it dangerous to wander away from God?
4. Why are some reasons that people wander astray from God?
5. Have you ever wandered astray from your parents? What was that like and what does that teach you about the importance of not wandering astray from God?

Saturday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 2:10b-22

Word of the Day: Defiled

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What things do you clean in your life – like doing the dishes or picking up your clothes? In warning against false teachers, Peter says that they are defiled. By defiled, Peter means that they are people who do dirty things and want other people to join them in doing dirty things. These dirty things are sins that make our soul dirty and do not help us grow to be holy or clean like Jesus. Thankfully for the Christian, God always cleans us up no matter what we have done.

1. What does it mean to be defiled?
2. What is the dirtiest you have ever been? How did you get clean?
3. How does Jesus cleanse us from our sin?
4. After Jesus has cleansed us from our sin, why is it foolish to sin again and get dirty?
5. Even if you get dirty when you are not supposed to, does Jesus still clean you up?

WEEK 4: 2 PETER 3:1-18

Sunday

Bible Reading: 1 Peter 2:13-17

Word of the Day: Submission

Peter speaks about the letters he has written to the churches, which are now part of our Bible. Many of the books in the New Testament are also letters. In that day when it was hard to travel (there were no cars or airplanes) and hard to communicate (there was no radio, TV, Internet, or even printing press), people would often communicate by writing letters. It was a big treat to receive a letter and the letters that are in the Bible were read out loud to the whole churches that received them.

1. Why are many of the books in the New Testament letters?
2. Who got to hear the letter read when it came to the church?
3. How much do you enjoy getting mail?
4. What is the most fun thing you've ever gotten in the mail?
5. Who should you write a letter to because it would be very special to them? Parents, help your child write and mail a letter so they can do what Peter did.

Monday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-7

Word of the Day: Commandments

Peter tells Christians that they should obey God's commandments. By commandments the Bible means that God gives us instructions that he expects us to follow. God's commandments are always good because God is good and loves us and his rules are to help us and protect us. Some people treat parts of the Bible like they are optional, but Peter says that the Bible is filled with God's commands to be obeyed.

1. What are commandments?
2. How many commandments did God give Moses on the stone tablets? Ten.
3. Can you name some of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17)?
4. Are there any rules in your family (and school, if applicable) that you wish you did not have to obey?
5. What bad things happen when kids don't obey?

Tuesday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-10

Word of the Day: Eternal

Peter says that Christians need to persevere, or keep living as Christians, even though it seems like a long time before Jesus will come back and set up heaven on earth. Peter explains that God does not see time like we do. God is eternal, which means he lives outside of time without beginning or end (even though he did create time and does work in time). From God's perspective, Peter says, the two thousand years that have passed since Jesus walked on the earth are only like a few days.

1. What does it mean that God is eternal?
2. Is anyone other than God eternal?
3. Does God have a beginning? No.
4. Does God have an end? No.
5. Does God get old like we do? No.
6. Does God see the future already? Yes.

Wednesday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-10

Word of the Day: Patient

Jesus came two thousand years ago and promised that he would come back to get rid of sin once and forever and establish his Kingdom to make us all happy. The two thousand years that have already passed make some people to wonder if God is slow. Peter says that Jesus has not returned yet because God lovingly takes his time to save many people and make them Christians. This is because God is incredibly patient.

1. Why is it taking so long for Jesus to return?
2. What does it mean that God is patient?
3. Why is patience a good thing?
4. To say that God is patient means He is waiting for people to become Christians. Which people do you know that we can be praying become Christians?
5. Parents, it would be good to share some personal stories about how God has been patient with you.

Thursday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 3:14-18

Word of the Day: Beloved

As he closes his letter to Christians, Peter calls them “beloved.” This is a special name that means “the people who are loved.” It is a wonderful thing to be someone’s beloved, and you are God’s beloved.

1. What does beloved mean?
2. Name all the people you can think of who love you.
3. Name all the people you can think of whom you love.
4. Parents, please take some time for each person in your family to take a few moments and tell each member of your family why they love them.
5. Parents, take some time to share how God has loved you and your family.

Friday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 3:11-13

Word of the Day: Heaven

Peter says that heaven is really the Christian’s home. Before Jesus went back to Heaven, He said He was going to God the Father’s home and was building a home for us when we die. Just like sometimes

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it is hard to be away from home on the earth, so too it is sometimes hard to have this world feel like home. What makes a place a home is that our family is there, but until we get to heaven with God and all his people, we are not yet really at home. Still, since we love our family and enjoy our friends and church, we have a taste of our heavenly home here on earth.

1. How is heaven our home?
2. What do you like most about your home?
3. What do you think your home in heaven will be like?
4. What are some of your favorite memories with your family?
Why?
5. Do you think we will be able to do things like play ball, go swimming, and have fun on the new earth?
6. What do you think will be fun for you to do in heaven?

Saturday

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 3:14-18

Word of the Day: Glory

Peter's closing word of his two letters is "glory." The final thought Peter leaves with Christians is that we should do everything in this life and the life to come to God's glory. Because we were made for God's glory, when we live for God's glory we are happy. When the Bible says that God is glorious, it means he is amazing, wonderful, perfect, beautiful, majestic, holy, powerful, and overwhelming. To live for God's glory is to make every decision in our life based upon what God wants for us, what honors God, what is obedient to God, and what Jesus would do, because God alone is worthy of glory. So, the one short way of remembering to do everything that Peter teaches in both his letters is to simply remember to do one thing: live for the glory of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. What does it mean to live for the glory of God?
2. Why is God worthy of glory?
3. How is living for the glory of God really the key to obeying God?
4. Can we sin if we are living for the glory of God?
5. How happy does it make you when you do what is right and live for God's glory instead of sin? Explain.
6. In what areas of your life can you grow to do a better job of living for God's glory?

NOTES

1. A. M. Renwick, "Gnosticism," ed. Geoffrey W Bromiley, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised* (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979-1988), 486.
2. Nathan P. Feldmeth, *Pocket Dictionary of Church History: Over 300 Terms Clearly and Concisely Defined*, The IVP Pocket Reference Series (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008), 120.

MARK DRISCOLL

With Pastor Mark, it's all about Jesus! Mark and his wife Grace have been married and doing ministry together for over twenty-five years. They also planted The Trinity Church with their five kids in Scottsdale, Arizona as a family ministry (thetrinitychurch.com) and started Real Faith, a ministry alongside their daughter Ashley that contains a mountain of Bible teaching from Pastor Mark as well as content for women, men, pastors, leaders, Spanish-speakers, and more.

Mark has been named by Preaching Magazine one of the twenty-five most influential pastors of the past twenty-five years. He has a bachelor's degree in speech communication from the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University as well as a master's degree in exegetical theology from Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. For free sermons, answers to questions, Bible teaching, and more, visit **RealFaith.com** or download the **Real Faith app**.

Together, Mark and Grace have authored "Win Your War" and "Real Marriage". Pastor Mark has authored numerous other books including "Spirit-Filled Jesus", "Who Do You Think You Are?", "Vintage Jesus", and "Doctrine".



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