2 Peter Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

HOW TO BE KEPT FROM FALLING

2 Peter Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)
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1st Edition (2/2019)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

Don't simply "do" the lesson.

Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.

You don't have to ask every question in the guide.

Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out

When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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2 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

• 2 Peter Overview

NOTE: To begin this discussion you can tell your group to have in front of them the 2 Peter text they marked—either their Observation Worksheets or their Bible. And they should also look at the At a Glance chart.

You might begin by asking if any topics that caught their interest. Then give time for them to share what they observed.

AUTHOR

Who wrote 2 Peter and what does the text say about the author? Tell your group to look at the list they made about him on Day One of the lesson.

The first verse identifies the author as Simon Peter the apostle. But he first introduced himself as Jesus' bond-servant (ESV—servant).

As long as he was in his earthly body, he was always ready to remind the believers he wrote—to stir them up by reminder.

Jesus Christ had made clear to him that he was about to die. Peter was diligent to remind believers so they would recall what he wrote them even after his death.

He didn't follow clever tales when he told them of the Lord's power and coming, but he was an eyewitness of His majesty.

Peter wrote this second letter, 3:1, at the end of his life, 1:13-15.

Ask what they would write if they knew it was the end of their lives. Is there anything about Peter's life that is a good example to follow?

RECIPIENTS

Now ask what your group learned about the recipients of Peter's letter. Tell them to look at the page where they wrote this information at the end of the lesson.

The apostle Simon Peter, Jesus' servant, wrote to those who had the same kind of faith (ESV—a faith of equal standing), believers, 1:1.

They, with all believers, were granted everything pertaining to life and godliness.

They were also granted God's precious and magnificent / very great promises—again as all believers are.

You might take a minute here and ask your group what they think about these things applying to them. Do they truly believe they have everything they need to live godly? Why or why not?

What else does this letter say about the believers it was written to?

There are qualities they should be increasing in.

They already knew the truth and were established in it, 1:12.

There were false teachers and mockers / scoffers among them or soon to be among them.

They were looking for the things Peter wrote about the last days. And they were steadfast / stable.

Again, you can ask your group how these things relate to them, to their daily lives. Are they established in the truth, steadfast / stable?

PURPOSE, WHY WRITTEN

Where does this letter state why Peter wrote it? What was his stated reason or purpose?

In 3:1-2 Peter says he wrote to those believers to stir up their minds by reminder. It was the end of his life and he wanted to remind those who already were established in the truth.

He reminded them of God's Word:

- Old Testament, the words spoken beforehand (ESV—predictions) by the holy prophets
- New Testament, the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by the apostles

Why was that important to Peter at the end of his life?

Those believers were facing or about to face false teachers and mockers / scoffers. Peter knew and wanted them to remember that the solution for those situations is God's Word.

The same is true now. This letter is for believers now.

Believers face the same now, and 2 Peter tells how to combat false teachers and mockers / scoffers.

Now ask about each chapter to understand Peter's flow of thought and main message to believers. As you do, ask about the key repeated words in each chapter. Tell your group to look at their lists: "Remind, Call to Mind, Remember" and "Word of God."

2 PETER 1

Who and what is this chapter about?

This chapter is about Peter and the believers he wrote.

Believers have everything for life and godliness in God's promises and through the knowledge of God and Jesus.

Peter called those who had faith to supply / supplement certain qualities in their faith.

The believers already knew but were to add more knowledge to what they knew. Peter spoke of a true knowledge.

Peter didn't follow tales / myths, but knew the sure / confirmed word of prophecy and wanted believers established in the truth to remember these things.

2 Peter 2

How does this chapter connect with 2 Peter 1?

Peter told about the sure / confirmed word of prophecy from God through men moved / carried along by the Holy Spirit. "But false prophets."

Second Peter 1 is about believers.

Second Peter 2 is about the false prophets and teachers who come among believers.

Chapter 2 tells of those who had no knowledge and of those who knew, then turned away.

NOTE: Your group might observe some repeated key words in this chapter are judgment and destruction.

Why did Peter write this chapter in a letter to remind believers of God's Word?

This chapter is a warning for believers to know the true because the false will come in around or among them.

Ask your group if they can distinguish false from true teaching about the Word.

Continuing their study in 2 Peter will help them be able to do that.

2 PETER 3

What is the connection between chapters 2 and 3?

Some turned away from the holy commandment, so Peter told the believers to remember it. Chapter 3 continues about those who don't believe, then charges to believers.

In the last days mockers / scoffers will come. They'll mock the promise of Jesus' second coming.

Peter reminded that God's Word is sure. It is what caused the heavens and earth to exist. It's also reserving / keeping them for the day of judgment of the ungodly.

God is not slow about (ESV—slow to fulfill) His promise, but when He comes, so will judgment and destruction.

Verses 14-18

How did Peter end his letter of reminder to believers?

"Therefore..."

He told them of some things they needed to do because of the false teachers and mockers / scoffers, because of the promise of God's Word.

Be diligent.

Be on guard / take care.

False teachers and mockers / scoffers

The untaught / ignorant and unstable distort / twist the Scriptures.

Regard / count God's patience, in not coming yet, as salvation.

The last thing he said about knowledge was to grow in it—the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What is a possible theme of 2 Peter?

Remember the Word; grow in grace and knowledge of Lord

Ask your group how they are doing with: being diligent? on guard? growing?

How does 1 Peter compare with 2 Peter?

Second Peter says it's his second letter to the same people. In 1 Peter he wrote them about salvation, the true grace of God and that they were to stand firm in it. Salvation, suffering, and submission are main subjects in his first letter. The believers were suffering for salvation.

2 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

2 Peter 1:1-7

REVIEW

You might begin your discussion by asking your group to review the context of the book. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

Who wrote this letter? To whom and why?

The apostle Simon Peter wrote this near the end of his life.

To believers, those with the same kind of faith who already knew and were established in the truth

His stated purpose was to stir them up by way of reminder
that they would remember
the words spoken by / predictions of the holy prophets
the commandment of the Lord spoken by the apostles

False teachers and mockers were there or were about to show up to try leading the believers away from the truth of God's Word.

2 PETER 1

Verses 1-4

Who and what are these verses about?

Peter is described as a servant and apostle of Christ Jesus.

The recipients were those who had "received a faith" just like Peter's and the other apostles.

That is saving faith, received by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is both God and Savior.

There is a visual aid at the end of this lesson's guide which can be used to note the main points of the lesson as your group discusses each. Also, tell them to look at their list on "Knowledge."

What is multiplied to the believer and how? Ask about the definition of knowledge also.

Verse 2, grace and peace are multiplied in knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

The word for knowledge that is used here is *epignosis*.

"exact or full knowledge, discernment, recognition'... expressing a fuller or a full 'knowledge'"¹

Believers experience God's grace and peace through this knowledge of Him.

They know God and they know Jesus as their Lord or master.

At any point during this discussion, give your group opportunity to talk about relevant application. You might ask if they truly have this knowledge.

What do believers have and how?

His divine power has granted to believers everything pertaining to life and godliness.

Believers have absolutely everything they need for life and godliness. The provision is for the life received at salvation and for daily life in Christ, as well as for godliness, a lifestyle of reverence and obedience toward God.

godliness, eusebeia—"the devout practice and appropriate beliefs of God"2

It has been granted through the true knowledge of Him.

NOTE: Your group might question "His" and "Him" in verse 3; God the Father or Jesus.

He called believers by His own glory and excellence.

"Excellence" is the same Greek word translated as "moral excellence / virtue" in verse 5.

"Moral characteristic *virtue*, *uprightness*, *goodness*"³; "moral energy."⁴ It is "as a manifestation of God's grace *goodness*, *power*."⁵

¹W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996). 2:348.

²James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

³Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 74.

⁴Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 582.

⁵Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 74.

By this glory and excellence, He has granted to believers His precious and magnificent promises, found in His Word.

What does the end of verse 4 say about God's promises?

Become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust (ESV—because of sinful desires)

By God's promises believers partake of divine nature and escape the world's corruption.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about God's promises.

1 Peter 1:3-5, 14-16, 23

God causes people to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus, to an imperishable inheritance reserved in heaven. Believers are protected by God's power through faith for a salvation to be revealed—that glorification of our bodies.

Born again through the imperishable, living and enduring word of God

As partakers of this divine nature, true Christians are not to be conformed to former lusts but are to be holy in all behavior. Believers have escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

John 7:38-39

All believers receive the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9, 14

The Spirit of God and Christ leads the true sons of God.

Colossians 1:27; Galatians 2:20

Christ, the hope of glory is in believers—the Spirit of Christ.

Believers are dead, crucified with Christ. It's now Christ who lives in Christians, partakers of the divine nature. It will be His life lived through believers, not a life of lust and corruption.

How can these promises be applied now?

Verses 5-7

Who and what are these verses about? Ask about the definition of "supply."

For this very reason—verses 1-4—believers are to be diligent in their faith.

Peter wrote a list of qualities believers are to supply in their faith (ESV—supplement their faith with).

"Supply / supplement" is "to furnish besides, i.e. fully supply."

"Supply / supplement" is an imperative verb—a command.

Ask about each of the qualities and what your group learned from their study of each.

moral excellence / virtue

God calls believers by His excellence, verse 3, and in their faith they are to show this excellence in their lives, verse 5.

1 Peter 2:9

Not only are Christians to have moral excellence in their own lives, but Peter said they're to proclaim God's excellencies.

Philippians 4:8

One way to supply this quality is to concentrate on excellent things.

knowledge

supply knowledge—correct knowledge—in moral excellence

God's Word gives the knowledge of how to live in a morally excellent way.

self-control

Galatians 5:22-23

Part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit is self-control.

Self-control is necessary to live in a morally excellent way.

The false teachers of 2 Peter 2 lacked self-control. They were self-willed.

perseverance / steadfastness

hupomone—"steadfastness, constancy, endurance" "literally, 'an abiding under' (hupo, 'under,' meno, 'to abide')" 8

Romans 5:3-4

Perseverance / endurance results in proven character.

⁶James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996), G2023.

⁷James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G5281.

⁸W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996), 2:462.

1 Timothy 6:11

Paul commanded Timothy and all believers to pursue perseverance / steadfastness.

James 1:3-4

The desired result of one's faith being tested is endurance / steadfastness or perseverance. When that happens, the believer lacks nothing.

Ask your group how these things fit together in faith, and how they fit in their lives.

What is next in the list? What does it mean? Discuss the cross-references.

godliness, eusebeia

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Paul commanded believers to discipline themselves for godliness.

It's profitable for this life and the one to come.

2 Peter 3:11

This same word is used in this verse. Considering how things will end, God's people ought to be holy in conduct and godly. It's also for the life to come.

How do these qualities work together?

To live godly lives one must have moral excellence / virtue, knowledge, self-control and perseverance / steadfastness.

What are the last two qualities in the list? Discuss the word study and cross-references.

brotherly kindness / affection

This is part of godliness.

love, agape

"Love, affectionate regard, goodwill, benevolence"9

1 John 4:7-11

God is love, and love comes from Him.

Everyone who loves is born of God.

Having God's love is evidence of true salvation.

⁹Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 26.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Nothing a believer does is profitable if love is not involved.

Love is patient, kind, not jealous / envious.

Love does not brag / boast, act unbecomingly / rude, seek its own (ESV—insist on its own way), take into account a wrong suffered (ESV—is not . . . resentful), rejoice in unrighteousness / wrongdoing—love never fails / ends.

Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things.

Ask your group how they are doing with supplying these qualities. Which ones are evident in their lives, and which are not?

You might direct them to the chart for application at the end of the lesson.

NOTE: Since your group observed all of 1 Peter 1, you can ask what they observed in the rest of this chapter if you have time. This will all be studied more in the next lesson.

Verses 8-11

What are these verses about?

Having or lacking the qualities and entering God's kingdom Be diligent to make sure.

Verses 12-15

How do these verses relate with the previous?

Peter was about to have his entrance into the kingdom; he was about to die. But he was diligent to remind believers.

Verses 16-21

Ask what your group observed in these verses.

Peter was sure of what he wrote—what he was reminding them about.

He was an eyewitness of Jesus' majesty and heard God's voice.

So he had the word made more sure / fully confirmed.

Scripture is from the Holy Spirit.

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme for 2 Peter 1 on their At a Glance chart.

Be diligent in faith; Peter reminded of the sure / confirmed prophetic word

Believers

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Faith like Peter's
grace and peace
everything pertaining to life and godliness
partakers of divine nature
escaped corruption
```

In faith supply...

2 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- 2 Peter 1:8-21
- God's Word

REVIEW

You could begin your discussion by asking your group what they remember about 2 Peter. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and their list on "Knowledge."

The apostle Simon Peter wrote it to believers with the same kind of faith as he had.

He wrote to stir up their minds by reminding them of God's Word, Old and New Testaments.

There were false teachers and mockers / scoffers among them.

He told them to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Then ask what they remember about 2 Peter 1:1-7.

Grace and peace multiplied in the knowledge of God and Jesus Everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him His precious and magnificent promises

Partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust / sinful desire

Peter first told about God's divine enablement for the believer. Then he told of the believer's responsibility.

In verse 1, he addressed this letter to those who had received a faith; then in verse 5, he commanded them to supply / supplement certain qualities to their faith.

2 PETER 1:8-21

Verses 8-11

What is the contrast in verses 8-9?

If one has these qualities and they are increasing, they will render / keep that one useful / effective and fruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted / near-sighted, having forgotten his purification / cleansing from his former sins.

How do the cross-references in James and Romans relate to this contrast?

James 2:14-26

Faith without works is dead. Faith is shown or proven by works.

Romans 2:4-10

God will judge each according to his deeds.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Peter 1. What else did Peter write about the lack of the qualities?

Therefore

If the qualities are lacking in a person's life, they need to sure they are saved. They need to check this out with diligence.

While believers practice these qualities, they never stumble / fall.

There is a play on words in verse 11. An entrance into the eternal kingdom will be abundantly supplied / richly provided to believers.

You might ask your group if they know for sure that they are headed for God's eternal kingdom.

Verses 12-15

Who and what are these verses about? How does Peter's flow of thought continue?

Peter knew for sure that he was about to enter the kingdom—he was about to die.

The believers Peter wrote this to already knew and were established in the truth. But he was ready until he died to remind them.

He wanted them to remember even after he died.

What did Paul and Stephen say before they died?

2 Timothy 4:6-8

He encouraged all who love Jesus' appearing by telling about the crown the Lord will award to them. It's after fighting the good fight, finishing the course, keeping the faith.

2 Peter 1 is about keeping the faith.

Acts 7:54-60

When Stephen faced death, he asked the Lord to forgive those stoning him. He saw the Lord Jesus standing at God's right hand—an abundant entrance.

Lead the discussion back to 2 Peter 1.

What are <u>verses 16-18</u> about? Also discuss the cross-reference.

Peter didn't follow tales / myths when he made known to them the power and coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He knew for sure.

He was an eyewitness of Jesus' majesty.

He heard God's utterance / voice when he was with Jesus on the holy mountain.

Matthew 17:1-9

Peter was one of three disciples Jesus took with Him up on a mountain to see His transfiguration. He was an eyewitness of Jesus' majesty.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus and the voice out of the cloud said to listen to God's beloved Son.

NOTE: Maybe Moses represented the Law and Elijah the prophets; therefore, God's said to listen to His Son even about the Law and Prophets.

Go back to what Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:19-21. What did he say?

He concluded that we have the prophetic word made more sure (ESV—more fully confirmed), and they would do well to pay attention to it.

Then Peter warned them. Know that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation. Men moved / carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Peter himself was one of those men.

How important was God's Word to Peter?

John 6:68

Peter knew Jesus had words of eternal life.

1 Peter 1:22-25

In his first letter, Peter wrote about being born again by the living and enduring word of God. His word endures forever.

You might list a few of the main things about God's Word on a visual aid.

Now ask what they learned from the cross-references of Day Two about how God's Word came about.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

God breathed all Scripture, and it's all profitable so God's people are equipped by it for every good work. It teaches, reproves, corrects, and trains in righteousness.

Exodus 4:10-12

The Lord told Moses that He would be with his mouth and teach him what to say.

Jeremiah 1:6-9

God Himself put His words into the prophet's mouth, and all the Old Testament prophets.

What were some occasions when God wrote or spoke?

Exodus 31:18; 32:16

God wrote with His finger the Ten Commandments on stone tablets.

Daniel 5:5, 24-28

God wrote on a wall about the last king of the Babylonian Empire. He wrote that his kingdom was divided and given to the Medes and Persians. It happened that night.

Matthew 3:17 and 17:5

The Father spoke from heaven about His beloved Son. He said to listen to Him.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God said that He spoke in / by the prophets. And He spoke in / by His Son Jesus. Compare John 12:49-50 with this—the Father told Jesus what to say.

Old Testament and New Testament are from Him.

What did Jesus say about God's Word in the cross-references of Day Three?

Matthew 5:17-18 and Luke 24:25-27

Jesus didn't abolish the Law or the Prophets (Old Testament).

He fulfilled the Old Testament Law and Prophets as they spoke of Him.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Words will not pass away.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about Creation, the Flood, and Jonah.

Matthew 12, 19, and 24; Mark 13; Luke 11 and 17

Jesus validated the accuracy of Creation in Genesis, Noah and the Flood, and Jonah.

2 Peter 2

As you bring this discussion to a close, you can ask what they observed in 2 Peter 2.

Note: This will be studied more in the next two lessons.

Who is this chapter about? What are the repeated key words?

Just as there were false prophets among the people—Israel of old—there will be false teachers among believers. This chapter is about those false teachers. It's a warning for believers.

Key repeated words are destruction, judgment, and punishment—the end of the false teachers.

How does this chapter connect with chapter 1 and then chapter 3?

The end of chapter 1 is about true prophecy of Scripture.

Then it's contrasted with the false prophets and teachers.

And chapter 3 begins with the reminder to believers about God's Word.

Ask about the theme for this chapter.

Destruction for false teachers among believers

You might ask your group if they think the same way Peter did about God's Word. Why or why not?

2 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

• 2 Peter 2:1-10

REVIEW

Ask why Peter wrote 2 Peter. Tell your group to answer from memory if they can. If not, tell them to look at their At a Glance chart for help remembering.

To stir up believers to remember

the words spoken beforehand / predicted by the holy prophets the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by their apostles

Then you might ask who and what 2 Peter 1 is about.

God's provision for those who have faith

The qualities believers are to supply / supplement in their faith

Peter's diligence to remind them of these things

The sure / confirmed word of prophecy

2 PETER 2

Verses 1-3

What is the contrast between the end of chapter 1 and the beginning of chapter 2?

True prophecy and prophets—true knowledge for believers

False prophets and false words

False prophets were among the people of the Old Testament, and false teachers will come in among believers.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about false prophets.

Deuteronomy 18:18-22

Those who spoke presumptuously in God's name were to die.

Also, those who spoke in the name of another god.

If the thing the prophet spoke didn't come true, Israel could then know it was not a prophecy from God. And they weren't to fear those prophets.

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

The people were not to listen to the prophet or dreamer who said to worship and serve other gods, even if that one gave a sign or wonder which came true. God was testing them to find out if they loved Him with all their heart and soul.

The prophet who taught rebellion was to be put to death.

Micah 3:11

False prophets of Israel divined for money; yet they said the Lord was in their midst and calamity would not come.

What are warnings about false prophets and teachers in the New Testament cross-references?

Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus said to beware of false prophets who come disguised in sheep's clothing but are really ravenous wolves. Second Peter 2:1, false teachers among believers, secretly introduce heresies. They can be recognized by their fruit; a bad / diseased tree bears bad fruit, corrupt lifestyle.

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire—judgment.

Matthew 24:11, 24

False prophets will arise and mislead / lead astray many. Second Peter 2 says many will follow them.

Acts 20:26-36

Savage wolves will come in among the believers; men will arise from among them, speaking perverse / twisted things to draw away disciples. This is what 2 Peter 2 is about.

In contrast to this, Paul did not shrink from declaring the whole purpose / counsel of God, and in contrast to the greediness of the false teachers in 2 Peter, he coveted no one's silver, gold, or clothes / apparel, and showed them that it is more blessed to give than receive.

Second Peter says false teachers entice the ones who barely escape from the ones who live in error and entice unstable / unsteady souls. They malign / blaspheme the way of truth.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

False apostles, deceitful workers, disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. Second Peter 2 says they secretly introduce heresies and are among believers. They are Satan's servants whose end will be according to their deeds—judgment, destruction.

Philippians 3:17-19

Paul wrote about enemies of the cross of Christ.

Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite / belly. Second Peter 2 says slaves of corruption, entangled and overcome by the defilements of the world. Their glory is their shame. Peter wrote that they count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

The time would come when people will not endure sound doctrine / teaching, but wanting to have their ears tickled (ESV—having itching ears), will accumulate teachers in accordance to their own desires / passions. They will turn aside / wander off to myths.

Lead the discussion back to 2 Peter and tell your group to look at the chart in the Appendix, "False Teachers." Ask about what they noted from verses 2 and 3. Also, ask about the word studies.

They secretly introduce / bring in destructive heresies and deny the Master. But they are bringing destruction on themselves.

heresies—"division, faction; false party or teaching"¹; "strictly choice or option . . . in a religious sense, of belief contrary to established doctrine heresy, false teaching (2P 2.1)"²

Another sad point is that many will follow their sensuality. Some people want to live by what feels good. These are people among believers who live by their senses.

sensuality—"debauchery, licentiousness, lewdness, *i.e.*, be unrestrained in moral attitudes and behaviors"³

The false teachers malign / blaspheme the way of truth and because of their greed, they exploit with false words. But they're facing judgment and destruction.

malign, blasphemeo—"to slander, hence to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things"⁴

false, *plastos*— "formed, made; figuratively, of the man-made arguments of false teachers fabricated, counterfeit, made-up (2P 2.3)"⁵

¹Barclay M. Newman Jr., *A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993), pg. 5.

²Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), pg. 37.

³James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁴Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries : Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998), G987.

⁵Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), pg. 315.

What do the cross-references on Day Three say?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Don't be deceived about who will enter God's kingdom—only those who have been washed, sanctified and justified. As Peter said many will follow the sensuality of the false teachers, Paul wrote a list of deeds many practice. This does not describe true believers.

Galatians 5:19-21

Another list, the deeds of the flesh. Those who practice these will not enter God's kingdom. They aren't saved.

Colossians 3:1-7

Although believers lived in sins before salvation, they are to live by seeking the things above instead of the things of the flesh. God's wrath comes on sons of disobedience—those described in 2 Peter 2.

Now ask your group how they can keep from being deceived by false teachers. Give time for them to discuss this. It's very important for their lives.

Verses 4-10a

According to verse 9, what are the two main points of these verses? You might want to write the following on a visual aid.

God knows how to rescue the godly from temptation / trials

and

to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.

What are the three examples of these points?

You might add the following to your visual aid.

The first example is angels who sinned, verse 4.

The second is the ancient world of Noah's days, verse 5.

But God preserved Noah and seven others.

The third is Sodom and Gomorrah, and Lot's rescue, verses 6-8.

Ask your group what they learned from their study about the first example, the angels who sinned. Include cross-references.

God didn't spare them.

He cast them into hell and committed them to pits / chains of darkness reserved for judgment (ESV—kept until the judgment).

Jude 6-7

This is also a description of angels who sinned. Here it says they did not keep their own domain / position of authority but left their proper dwelling.

They indulged in gross / sexual immorality and went after strange flesh (ESV—pursued unnatural desire). Perhaps, these angels took bodily form and engaged in sexual sins. The angels' sin is compared with what the people of Sodom and Gomorrah did in pursuing unnatural desire in sexual sin.

God has kept them in eternal bonds / chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day of God. They'll be judged with eternal fire.

What Jude wrote is similar to 2 Peter 2:4.

Job 1:6 and Job 38:7

It seems that "sons of God" refer to angelic beings in these texts. Satan was among them when they came before God's presence.

Genesis 6:1-8

Here is another use of the term "sons of God" which many consider to be angels, demonic in nature.

The sons of God took daughters of men / man as wives and children were born.

Some think this refers to Jude 6-7, the angels who "did not keep their own domain (ESV—position of authority) but abandoned / left their proper abode / dwelling."

Note: There are at least 3 different views on the sons of God in Genesis 6. Some think they are the angels referred to in Jude and 2 Peter and the spirits in 1 Peter. Another view is that the sons of God are the ungodly line of Cain who intermarried with the godly line of Seth; however, this poses a problem in that it presents all those in Cain's line as ungodly and all those in Seth's line as godly. The third view is that the sons of God were men who were demon-possessed. If someone brings up these views, remember to keep the emphasis on the context. This is one of Peter's examples to show that the Lord will punish the unrighteous.

1 Peter 3:18-20

Christ, at His death, went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison who were disobedient in Noah's time. This might refer to the angels in 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6-7, and Genesis 6.

Or the spirits might refer to the spirits of ungodly dead people.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Peter 2:5.

What is the next example? Ask your group what they learned about it.

God didn't spare the ancient world but brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. But He preserved righteous Noah and seven others.

Genesis 6:5-8; 7:17, 21-24

The Lord saw man's great wickedness and evil.

He sent the flood and destroyed every creature that lived on earth except those on the ark.

23

Noah found favor in the Lord's eyes. Peter wrote that he was a preacher of righteousness.

Matthew 24:36-39; Luke 17:26-27

The coming of the Son of Man will be like the days of Noah. People were eating, drinking, marrying until the flood. Judgment came and destroyed them all.

Ask what your group learned from their study of the last example in 2 Peter 2:6-8.

God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction but rescued righteous Lot. God's destruction of these cities is an example even now to the ungodly. Many people know what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah even if they don't know much else about the Bible.

Genesis 18:20-32; 19:1, 12-13, 24-29

The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was exceedingly grave (ESV—very grave). Not even ten righteous men were found there.

The Lord sent angels to destroy the cities, raining brimstone / sulfur and fire out of heaven on those cities and all the valley.

Luke 17:28-30

It will be the same on the day the Son of Man is revealed—judgment of the wicked.

According to 2 Peter 2:7-8, what happened to Lot?

The Lord rescued righteous Lot.

He is described as oppressed / greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the morally corrupt men where he lived. Living among these with their lawless deeds tormented his soul day after day.

Genesis 13:5-15; 19:1-29

Lot, Abram's nephew, went with Abram. When their possessions were so great that the land couldn't sustain them living together, Lot separated from Abram, choosing the well-watered valley of the Jordan.

He might not have been a righteous man at that time.

God sent angels to rescue Lot and his family before Sodom was destroyed.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned about the Lord's justice.

2 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

2 Peter 2:10b-22

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group why Peter wrote this letter and what it's about. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

2 Peter 3:1-2—He wrote to stir up believers to remember God's Word.

There were false teachers and mockers / scoffers among them.

One of the key repeated words in this letter is "know," "knowledge." He told them to be on guard and grow in grace and knowledge of Christ.

Chapter 1 is about believers, their knowledge of Christ and their knowledge for living. Chapter 2 is about false teachers who lead people away from true knowledge.

Ask what your group remembers about the false teachers and the examples in verses 1-10 of chapter 2.

Just as false prophets were among the people of Israel, there will be false teachers among believers—among the true church.

Throughout this letter, Peter referred to examples from the Old Testament and encouraged believers to remember the words spoken by (ESV—the predictions of) the holy prophets.

There were three examples of God keeping the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment while rescuing the righteous.

Angels who sinned Ancient world and Noah plus the seven with him Sodom and Gomorrah and righteous Lot

Tell them to look at the chart in the Appendix, "False Teachers," as a visual aid for this discussion.

2 PETER 2:10-22

Verses 10-16

What's the description of the false teachers in verses 10-11?

Indulge the flesh in corrupt desires (ESV—indulge in the lust of defiling passion)

Despise authority

Daring / bold and self-willed / willful

Ask your group if they've seen false teachers doing this. How is this description helpful to true believers? Why is it in God's Word?

According to verses 10-11, what do the false teachers do and to whom? Discuss the word study.

They revile angelic majesties (ESV—blaspheme the glorious ones).

revile, blasphemeo—"blaspheme, insult, slander, curse"1

This is contrasted with angels who are greater in might and power, yet do not bring a reviling / blasphemous judgment against angelic majesties.

They don't tremble when they do this, which seems to go along with them despising authority and being daring.

What does verse 12 say about reviling? What does Jude say?

Jude was written to believers warning of certain persons creeping in who turn God's grace into licentiousness. They deny the Master and Lord Jesus Christ, much like the false teachers among believers in 2 Peter.

Verse 12 compares these who revile angelic majesties (ESV—blaspheme the glorious ones) to unreasoning / irrational animals who act on instinct and are captured / caught and killed / destroyed. They will be destroyed for doing wrong.

Jude 8-10

Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not pronounce a railing / blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

You might ask your group if they've seen or heard people reviling angelic majesties, even Satan. Have they participated? What does this text say about that?

¹James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

How does the description continue in verses 13-14?

They revel in the daytime; stains / blots and blemishes reveling in deception as they carouse / feast with "you." They are among believers.

revel, *truphe*—"to live a life of luxury, usually associated with intemperate feasting and drinking"²

carouse / feast, suneuocheo—"to feast sumptuously with."³

Their eyes are full of adultery never ceasing from sin. Because their hearts are trained in greed, they entice unstable / unsteady souls, evidently for some type of gain from them.

Ask your group if they are stable enough to stand when enticed. How can they be?

Who is the example in verses 15-16? What do these verses say about him?

False teachers go astray, forsaking the right way, indicating that they once knew the right way. They follow the way of Balaam.

Balaam is an example of a false prophet from the Old Testament.

He loved wages of unrighteousness / gain from doing wrong.

His donkey spoke; rebuking him for his transgression and restraining his madness.

How do the cross-references about Balaam give insight on 2 Peter 2:15-16?

Jude 11

The ungodly rush headlong / abandon themselves into the error of Balaam.

Numbers 22

Balak, the king of Moab, called the prophet Balaam to come and curse Israel but he refused as God had instructed him. When the king sent men to Balaam a second time and offered to honor him richly, Balaam asked the men to stay and again inquired of God. God told him to go but only speak His words.

As they went, Balaam's donkey saw the angel of the Lord with a sword and would not continue, so Balaam struck the donkey three different times. The Lord opened the donkey's mouth to speak to Balaam; then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes. Balaam acknowledged his sin and said he would turn back, but the angel of the Lord told him to go with the men but speak only the word he would tell Balaam.

²Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 768.

³James Strong, Enhanced Strong's Lexicon (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G4910.

Numbers 24:1-11

Balaam was not able to curse Israel but blessed them. Balak king of Moab was angry. The Lord held back the great honor promised Balaam.

Lead your discussion back to 2 Peter 2:17-22. How are the false teachers described in verse 17?

Springs without water and mists driven by a storm

The black (ESV—gloom of utter) darkness refers to their judgment. It has been reserved, kept for them.

How does the cross-reference in Jude compare?

Jude 12-13

The black darkness reserved forever

It's for those who feast with believers without fear. The description is similar to that in 2 Peter 2:17.

Go back to 2 Peter 2:18-22. How does the description of false teachers continue?

These false teachers speak out arrogant words of vanity (ESV—loud boasts of folly).

By these words and by fleshly desires / passions and sensuality, they entice those who barely escape from the ones who live in error.

They appeal to people with teaching that allows the people to hold on to their fleshly desires and sensuality.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

How do they entice?

They entice by promising freedom; however, they themselves are slaves of corruption, because they have been overcome by it.

They had a knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and through it escaped the defilements of the world.

"Knowledge," epignosis

They knew the facts about Jesus Christ.

If however, after this had happened, they were again entangled in these defilements and were overcome, the last state was worse for them than the first.

They knew the way of righteousness, yet they turned from it.

It would have been better had they not known it.

What does 1 John say about overcoming or being overcome?

1 John 5:4-5

Believers—those born of God—overcome by faith. They are not overcome themselves.

What are the illustrations in verse 22? Why are they used here?

The dog returning to its own vomit is a quote from Proverbs 26:11.

The second is a sow returning to wallowing in the mire after being washed.

The dog is still a dog and the sow is still a sow.

Although a sow is washed, it's still the same sow with the nature of a sow.

It is the same with man. It is not until he partakes of, becomes a sharer in, the divine nature, 2 Peter 1:4, that he changes from the inside out.

The false teachers knew the truth but turned away. They had never become partakers of the divine nature. Therefore, they returned to living as they had, according to their sinful nature.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references at the end of Day Four.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

This description of false teachers is men holding to a form of godliness but denying its power. This can be seen by the list in verses 1-4.

Believers are to avoid such men.

Hebrews 10:26-31

In Old Testament times men received judgment for continuing in willful sin after knowing the truth. Those who claim to be saved by Jesus' blood but willfully continue in sin will receive severer punishment from God.

As you close, ask your group how they can recognize and avoid false teachers.

2 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

2 Peter 3

REVIEW

Ask your group what 2 Peter is about and how chapters 1 and 2 fit into the whole. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart.

Simon Peter wrote to believers to remind them of the Word. They were facing false teachers.

2 Peter 1

What God did for believers Qualities that believers are to supply / supplement in their faith Peter was about to die, but had been diligent

No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, but men moved / carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter 2

False teachers who secretly introduce destructive heresies will be among believers. Their judgment is sure.

2 PETER 3

You might begin by asking how this chapter is divided and the main subjects.

Verses 1-7 Peter's purpose for writing and the mockers / scoffers Verses 8-13 The promise will be fulfilled with the day of the Lord Verses 14-18 "Therefore"...Peter told believers what to do

You can also ask about a possible chapter theme for 2 Peter 3.

Mockers / scoffers; 2nd coming; grow in grace and knowledge

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin?

Peter stated why he wrote this letter. It was to stir up the believers' minds. They had false teachers and mockers / scoffers among them.

He wanted them to remember God's Word—the only prevention against false doctrine.

The words / predictions spoken by the prophets—the Old Testament.

The Lord and Savior's commandment by the apostles—New Testament.

Verses 3-7

Who and what are these verses about? Tell your group to look at their list about "Knowledge" as a visual aid while discussing this chapter.

Mockers / scoffers will come in the last days.

"Know this first of all"

Peter warned about false teachers, but it was equally important that he also warn about the mockers / scoffers.

When are the last days?

Hebrews 1:1-2

The last days began when God spoke in His Son Jesus.

What were the mockers mocking and why?

They mock / scoff the promise of His coming—Jesus' second coming.

They follow their own lusts, not wanting His return.

How do the cross-references on Day One describe His coming?

2 Peter 1:16

Peter referred to Jesus' coming. Peter was an eyewitness to His majesty.

Hebrews 9:27-28

Jesus will appear the second time for salvation to those who wait for Him, to rescue the righteous.

Acts 1:10-11

He will come again the same way as He left the first time.

Matthew 25:31-46

When He comes the second time, He'll sit on His glorious throne and judge the nations—the righteous and the unrighteous. He is the King.

When modern mockers / scoffers question the second coming, what might they want to deny and why? Give time for your group to discuss.

The coming judgment which follows Jesus' return to earth

Because they are facing His judgment

What did the mockers / scoffers say in verse 4, and how did Peter refute it in verses 5-6?

Mockers / scoffers say everything continues as it has been since creation. But Peter corrected this statement by reminding of what God said and did in the past.

By His word the heavens and earth came about, and then were destroyed by the flood. The world, as it was originally, was destroyed or perished in the flood.

How does Genesis 1:1-10 compare with 2 Peter 3:5-6?

Genesis 1:1-10

When God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless and void, covered with water. The Spirit of God moved over the surface of the water.

2nd day

God spoke and made an expanse, heaven that separated the waters below from the waters above.

3rd day

God spoke, and the waters below the heavens were gathered into one place, and dry land appeared.

Lead your group back to 2 Peter 3.

What does verse 7 teach about God's Word? How does it relate to the previous verses?

The present heavens and earth are being reserved for judgment.

The ungodly will be destroyed.

God's Word is true.

His promises will be fulfilled.

Why might people deny the flood?

It was God's judgment on the ungodly at that time.

The ungodly now deny the flood as they do Jesus' return.

They don't want to admit that God judges.

Ask your group how that applies now.

Verses 8-13

Who did Peter address in verses 8-13, and how do these verses relate to the previous one?

Peter addressed believers again, explaining why the promise of Jesus' return has not been fulfilled yet.

What is his explanation?

Contrasted with the mockers / scoffers, Christians are not to let it escape their notice (ESV—overlook this fact). The Lord is not slow regarding His promise—it will come.

NOTE: Regarding His promise of Jesus' return—one day to God is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. This refers to the end of things not the beginning. God is eternal, not limited by time. Some people use this statement to refer to creation, meaning the days of creation were not literal days. That is not the case.

The Lord is not slow about His promise. He is patient toward you, believers, not wishing for any to perish but that all come to / reach repentance. Relate this to chapter 2. The Lord is just and will punish the unrighteous.

NOTE: The context shows verse 9 is about those who will be saved, not every person in the world. There are those who are facing God's judgment because they don't repent.

The final judgment hasn't yet come because God is patient.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief. Peter tells what will happen during the day of the Lord. The heavens will pass away, the elements / heavenly bodies will be destroyed, and the earth and its works will be burned up / exposed.

The day of the Lord in verse 10 has the same description as the day of God in verse 12; the heavens, elements / heavenly bodies will be destroyed with fire.

What do the Old Testament cross-references say about the day of the Lord?

Isaiah 13:6-13

destruction from the Almighty every man's heart will melt astonishment / aghast

Like they weren't expecting it or didn't believe it would really happen.

Relate this to the mockers / scoffers.

fury / wrath and burning / fierce anger to make the land a desolation, exterminate / destroy sinners stars flash no light, sun dark, moon sheds no light punish world for evil man scarce / people rare heavens tremble at the Lord's fury / wrath

Ezekiel 30:3

clouds

doom for the nations

Joel 2:1-2

darkness and gloom, clouds and thick darkness great and mighty / powerful people never been anything like it (ESV—their like has never been before)

Zephaniah 1:14-18

wrath, trouble, distress / anguish destruction and desolation battle

the Lord will make a complete (ESV—full and sudden) end of all the inhabitants of the earth

Second Peter 3:10 says the day of the Lord will come like a thief. What kind of lifestyle should this expectation generate? Ask what your group observed in the passage from 1 Thessalonians 5.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The day of the Lord will only be like a thief to those who don't expect Him to return. Christians look for Him. The faithful will not be surprised.

While others are speaking about peace and safety / security, believers are to be alert / keep awake and be sober. Encourage and build up one another.

Lead the discussion back to 2 Peter 3:11-13. Since this judgment is coming, how are believers to live?

Practicing holy conduct / holiness and godliness.

Look / wait for and hasten the coming day of God.

Look / wait for new heavens and earth of righteousness.

How do Revelation 21–22 encourage believers? Give your group time to discuss application.

Verses 14-18

How do these verses begin?

"Therefore"

Discuss what other instructions Peter gave believers.

Be diligent—Peter had been

Regard / count God's patience to be salvation—salvation for the rest of those who will be saved.

What did Peter write about Paul's letters?

Paul also wrote about salvation and the end times.

What he wrote was Scripture.

Some of what he wrote is hard to understand.

The untaught / ignorant and unstable distort / twist some of what he wrote.

They do the same to the rest of Scriptures.

What were Peter's final instructions? How do they relate to the rest of 2 Peter?

"You, therefore, beloved . . ." because of all these things he said.

"knowing this beforehand" . . . It's not a surprise.

Be on guard / take care so you're not carried away by error.

The false teachers and mockers are unprincipled / lawless men who introduce error.

Believers are to be steadfast.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus.

The knowledge of the truth protects from error.

That's why Peter wrote to remind of God's Word.

The believers he wrote had previously been established in the truth.

To end this discussion, ask your group if they are committed to fulfilling their responsibility to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus and to live in the light of that truth. Ask what they learned from the cross-references at the end of Day Four.

1 Peter 2:2

Long for the pure milk of the Word to grow in respect to salvation.

Hebrews 5:12-14

Believers need to move on to the solid food which is for the mature.

Colossians 2:6-8

Walk in Christ, firmly rooted in Him.

There is a warning not to be taken captive through philosophy and empty deception / deceit, according to the tradition of men (ESV—human tradition) or elementary principles / spirits of the world, rather than according to Christ.

2 Timothy 2:15

Present yourselves approved to God as a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed because he is accurately / rightly handling the Word.

Ephesians 5:26-27

It is by the washing of the water of the Word that Christ cleanses the church, so that He might present the church with no spot or wrinkle, but holy and blameless / without blemish.

You might close your discussion by asking your group if they have committed themselves to knowing God's Word in order to be on guard / take care and grow.

Ask if anyone would like to share how what they have learned in 2 Peter has helped them to be on guard / take care and to grow in grace and knowledge. They might look at their At a Glance chart as a visual reminder.