

Always Remember – Living a Godly Life

2 Peter 1:1-11

2 Peter 1:1-2 Remember Peter

1. What do you recall about the life of Peter and his relationship with Jesus Christ? What is the significance of him calling himself both servant and apostle?
2. Who is the letter addressed to and what might Peter mean by saying his readers have a 'faith as precious as ours'?

2 Peter 1:3-4 Remember what we have

3. What does it mean to live a godly life?
4. Remember what we have been given to live a godly life.
5. Recall some of the great and precious promises we have in Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-9 Remember our responsibility

6. If God has already granted us *all* we need for life and godliness how does the encouragement to 'make every effort' fit in (v5)?
7. Share some ways we as believers can make every effort to grow in the virtues listed in v5-7?
8. What keeps us from developing these qualities (v9)?

2 Peter 1:10-11 Remember your calling

9. What does it mean to 'make sure' of our calling in Christ when it is Christ who has given us faith in the first place (see v1b)? How can you make sure of your calling as a Christian?

Pray Together

- Give thanks as you remember the privileges received through Christ.
- Pray that you will increase in godly virtues. Share one virtue you would like to work on particularly over the coming week that the group can support you in prayer for.
- Give thanks for your calling in Christ and pray that each member of the group will never fall.

Always Remember – Eyewitnesses to Jesus

2 Peter 1:12-21

In the world of the early New Testament there were two ways of establishing something as fact, through testimony of ancient sources and through the testimony of eyewitnesses. In today's world how do we typically establish something as fact?

2 Peter 1:12-15 Peter Reminds

1. Peter was aware of his own death approaching (see John 21:18-19). What is the legacy he hopes to leave?
2. Peter addresses Christians who 'are firmly established in the truth'. Why do Christians need reminding of the truth that Peter referred to in verses 3-11?

2 Peter 1:16-18 An eyewitness remembers

3. What are some of the common views of the Bible in our world today?
4. What is Peter's argument against those who accuse the apostles of telling made-up stories or myths?
5. Peter recalls an experience with Jesus that he and others witnessed, called the transfiguration (Matt 17:1-5). In what way does the transfiguration itself bear witness to the truth of who Jesus is and to his coming again (see also Luke 21:27)?

2 Peter 1:19-21 Remember the prophets

6. The word of the prophets refers to Old Testament prophecy. Why is it good to pay attention to Old Testament scripture, v19 (see also Psalm 119:105)?
7. A helpful way to read the Old Testament is to ask in what way it points us forward to Jesus. How can we be sure of the reliability of the Old Testament prophecies, v20-21?
8. The scriptures are said to be the word of God and yet the books of the Bible all had a human author. How does v21 help us understand the cooperation between God and human authors in writing the scriptures we know today? [The term used in v21 for 'carried along' is also used in a nautical sense to describe a sailing boat being carried along once its sails are raised.]
9. The purpose of this letter, 2 Peter, is to remind us of the truth of God's word. The Bible can be confusing at times and difficult to understand and apply to our lives. Share some of your challenges in reading the Bible.
There are many ways we can remind ourselves of the truth and find answers. Share some of the ways you have found helpful in studying the Bible.

Pray Together

- Give thanks for the truth of the Scriptures that remind us of Christ.
- Pray for each other as you study the Bible. Pray for the particular challenges each one faces.

Always Remember – Beware False Teaching

2 Peter 2:1-22

Read through the whole chapter. Some of the stories and metaphors that Peter used are not easy to understand and may even feel out of place in today's world. We do not know the content of false teaching or the context when Peter wrote this letter which makes it difficult to understand his response. However, there is a lot we can learn from this chapter. Try to focus on the main points that Peter makes as you read through and think through how those main points can be applied today.

Read through the chapter as a whole before discussing the themes below.

2 Peter 2:1 [also 12, 13-14, 17-19] The reality of false teachers

1. There will always be false teachers. How can we identify them? [See also Jude 4]
2. Can you think of false teachers or false teaching today?

2 Peter 2:1-3 [also 14, 15-16, 18-19] Introducing False Teaching

3. How do false teachers introduce their ideas?
4. What is their motivation?

2 Peter 2:2 Impact on church

5. What is the impact of false teaching on the church, both internally and in the eyes of the world?

2 Peter 2:1 [also 3, 4-9, 13] False Teachers condemned

6. What is the fate of false teachers and of those who remain righteous?
7. What do we learn of the nature of God from this chapter?
8. What promises can we fall back on as we face false teaching? [See 2 Pet 1:3; 1 Cor 10:13; Jude 24]

Pray Together

Together give thanks and praise for the grace and sovereignty of Jesus, affirming his lordship in your lives.

Pray for each other and for your spiritual leaders that you may be built up in the faith remaining in God's love. Pray for discernment as you are presented with teaching.

Further Resources

For more background on some of Peter's stories that we did not touch on see:

Genesis 6, 6-7 & 14

Early Christian Letters for Everyone by T. Wright

The NIV Application Commentary, 2 Peter/Jude by Douglas Moo

Always Remember – The Day of the Lord

2 Peter 3: 1-18

If God were to totally closedown the earth now, this instant, what would that mean for you, your friends and family and for the world?

2 Peter 3:1-2

1. Peter addresses his readers as 'dear friends.' Recap his message over the last two chapters. Even though his message seems harsh in what way is his message one of love given to friends?
2. What are the results of remembering the commands of Jesus and the prophets?

2 Peter 3:3-4

3. On what basis did the false teachers/scoffers question the credibility of the second coming of Christ?
4. If the scoffers were correct and there is no 'coming' or judgement what would be the logical implications for our lives here on earth?

2 Peter 3:5-10

5. Peter uses three arguments in response to the suggestion that Jesus is not coming again, v5-7, 8 and 9. What are they?
6. We don't know whether v10 is to be taken literally or as imagery for the judgement and re-creation of earth that God has planned. What do we know for certain? [See also 1 Thess 5:2-3; Mk 13:32-33; Acts 1:7]

2 Peter 3:11-16

7. Given the certainty of Jesus coming and judgement what are the implications for our lives today? [See also 1 Jn 2:28]

2 Peter 3:17-18

8. No true Christian thinks they have arrived. Use v17-18 to sum up the lessons learned from the book of 2 Peter as we live the Christian life.

Pray Together

Turn v 17-18 into a prayer for each other. Pray that God would be glorified in our lives now and forever.

Further Resources:

For a great summary of the whole letter of 2 Peter you might like to watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWLV_ITyKYc from the Bible Project.

Read <https://bibleproject.com/blog/2-peter-delay-jesus-return-crisis-of-patience/> on the delay of Jesus return.