

THE BOOK OF

# 2 Peter

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

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CREATED BY STEVE CASE

# Promises, Promises

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When did you promise something, and then you fulfilled your promise?

## READ 2 Peter 1:1–21.

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### 1. What qualified Peter to write this letter?

- A. God gave Peter lots of promises.
- B. Peter had lots of promises to share with others.
- C. He chose “servant/slave of Christ” as his title.
- D. He was part of Christ’s inner circle (*Peter, James, and John*).
- E. He denied Christ three times (*John 18:17, 25-27*).
- F. Christ did a triple reinstatement of Peter (*John 21:15-17*).
- G. After such positive reviews from his first letter, Peter had more to say.
- H. The Holy Spirit inspired Peter to write this letter.
- I. Other.

### 2. What can you say about your faith?

- A. It’s small.
- B. It’s growing.
- C. It’s adequate.
- D. It’s powerful.
- E. It’s a gift from Jesus.
- F. It connects me with God.
- G. It connects me with others.
- H. It gets me into trouble.
- I. Other.

### 3. Which promises from God do you go to most often?

- A. All things work together for good.
- B. I will never leave you or forsake you.
- C. Overcoming evil desires.
- D. Christ’s promise he would come again.
- E. Forgiveness from sin.
- F. Train up a child in the way he should go.
- G. Power to obey God’s instructions for how to live.
- H. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous and repent.
- I. Other.

**4. Rank (1-8) these 8 virtues based on how abundantly they exist in you.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Faith (trusting God no matter what happens).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Goodness (moral excellence).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Knowledge (knowing God better).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Self-control (alert discipline).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Perseverance (passionate patience).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Godliness (reverent wonder).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mutual affection (love for other Christians).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Love (love for everyone).

**5. Why do people fail to develop Godly virtues?**

- A. It's not a matter of salvation.
- B. They're very hard to develop.
- C. There are too many virtues.
- D. It quickly morphs into legalism.
- E. Nobody reminds us, so we forget.
- F. Lack of faith.
- G. They just aren't that important.
- H. Other.

**6. How can you be certain a message comes from God?**

- A. You can't.
- B. If it's in the Bible, it came from God.
- C. It takes faith.
- D. The Holy Spirit confirms it in your mind and heart.
- E. It's like a light shining in a dark place.
- F. It's consistent with what's already written in Scripture.
- G. Somebody confirms it from their own experience.
- H. Other.

**7. What has God's divine power (vs. 3) enabled you to do that you couldn't do on your own?**

**8. For you, when has the Bible been like a light shining in a dark place (vs. 19)?**

# Watch Out, Watch In

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Where would you put yourself on the following continuum?

**Skeptical**

**Trusting**

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

## READ **Read 2 Peter 2:1–22.**

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### 1. Why did Peter warn about false prophets in Israel (*vs. 1*)?

- A. There will always be false prophets.
- B. The presence of true prophets (*1:20-21*) provokes Satan.
- C. You expect false prophets to be outside the church, not inside it.
- D. False prophets can be very clever in their deceit.
- E. Peter was just paranoid.
- F. Don't believe everything on the internet, or what you hear at church.
- G. You're better off trusting no one.
- H. Other.

### 2. What are good indicators of false teachers or false teachings?

- A. Egocentric; selfish.
- B. Immorality.
- C. Greed.
- D. Lying.
- E. Manipulating.
- F. Lots of words.
- G. Over-promising and under-delivering.
- H. Other.

### 3. When has God come down hard on evil and those who do evil?

- A. Lucifer's rebellion in heaven.
- B. Adam, Eve, Satan, and the serpent in the Garden of Eden.
- C. The Flood.
- D. Sodom and Gomorrah.
- E. Balaam.
- F. Moses striking the rock instead of speaking to it.
- G. Israelite captivity in Babylon.
- H. Those who crucified Christ.
- I. Other.

**4. How does God rescue the Godly from:**

- A. Lust.
- B. Disrespect.
- C. Pride.
- D. Evil.
- E. Various types of addiction.
- F. Godlessness.
- G. Busyness.
- H. Politics.
- I. Other.

**5. What has mastered you (vs. 19)?**

- A. Food.
- B. Talking about others when they're not around.
- C. Reputation or self-image.
- D. My job/tasks.
- E. Money or materialism.
- F. Jesus.
- G. Certain people in my family.
- H. Other.

**6. Where are you likely to encounter false prophets or false teachings?**

- A. Home.
- B. Church.
- C. Social media.
- D. Conversations with friends.
- E. Conspiracy theories.
- F. In your own mind/thoughts.
- G. Your preferred news source and commentary.
- H. Other.

**7. When have you observed God intervening to stop a false prophet or false message?**

**8. What's the difference between a Christian fighting natural sinfulness/selfishness compared to being enslaved to sin after finding Jesus (vs. 20-22)?**

# Christ's Return

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When are you likely to think about Christ's return?

### READ 2 Peter 3:1-18.

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**1. What do you need to be reminded of a second time?**

- A. Many things I've been taught, but have forgotten over time.
- B. Doing my chores.
- C. Jesus loves me.
- D. A more mature perspective of what I learned as a child.
- E. A more childlike perspective of what my current understanding is.
- F. Jesus Christ will return.
- G. Everything is okay.
- H. This earth will be totally destroyed, then replaced with a new one.
- I. Other.

**2. What do "scoffers" ("mockers") do these days (vs. 3)?**

- A. Scoff and mock.
- B. Ridicule God and his ways.
- C. Ridicule those who follow God and his ways.
- D. Debate whatever is true.
- E. They just do their own thing.
- F. Worship.
- G. Live like there is no tomorrow.
- H. Marginalize religion and religious people.
- I. Other.

**3. What has remained the same since the world was created?**

- A. Nothing.
- B. Everything.
- C. Nature.
- D. Human nature.
- E. The revelation of God.
- F. Sunrise; sunset.
- G. Evolution.
- H. Technology.
- I. Other.

**4. Why hasn't Jesus returned yet?**

- A. He has; it's just that you might not see him.
- B. He's not in a hurry.
- C. Jesus wants more people to turn to him (before destroying the earth).
- D. We haven't done our part.
- E. He's still in the process of preparing mansions for us.
- F. It's just a few days (thousand years) for him.
- G. The Gospel hasn't been preached throughout the whole world.
- H. Only God knows.
- I. Other.

**5. What can you do to "hasten" Christ's return?**

- A. Nothing.
- B. Live a Godly life.
- C. Tell more people about Jesus.
- D. Tell more people about the destruction of the world by fire.
- E. Live each day as though Jesus will return today.
- F. Be at peace with God.
- G. Set the world on fire.
- H. Other.

**6. What do you do with parts of Scripture that are hard to understand?**

- A. Forget about them.
- B. Obsess about them.
- C. Blame those parts on Paul.
- D. Ask your pastor or another religious student/scholar.
- E. Google it.
- F. I'm challenged enough by the parts I do understand.
- G. Pray and then wait for God to answer.
- H. Other.

**7. What makes you sure Christ will return? What is your response to people who question Christ's return is "soon"?**

**8. How do you "grow in your knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (vs. 18)?**

