

# THE LETTERS OF 1 & 2 PETER

Rising Above Difficulty and Deception

## PART 3: WARNING

Peter wanted Jesus followers to have their minds free from distractions like immorality and deception. He wanted their focus to be on Jesus's return and how they can best utilize the time God had given them.

### WIN

To focus on the hope we have in Jesus's return, and to recognize when there are people or forces trying to influence otherwise

### CONNECT

What is the most common barrier you've faced when it comes to making your faith the top priority in your life? Is that barrier still a clear and present danger for you? Have you been able to take steps to get past it? If so, how?

### LEARN

Ask if anyone was able to read through 2 Peter, and also if anyone was able to memorize the verses from last week.

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

*"Heavenly Father, give me the wisdom to recognize the things in my life that are harmful to me living out my faith. Amen."*

After praying, watch the video for Part 3.

### APPLY

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. In 2 Peter, Peter gives a lot of warning surrounding false teachers of the day. He doesn't want Jesus followers to be distracted from the truth. What are some typical distractions that can keep us from follow Jesus? What are some "false teachings" that we are inundated with?
2. In 2 Peter 1:3, Peter reminds us that Jesus's divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life. In what ways does God's spirit help you in your life? In what ways do you need God to help you?



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3. In 2 Peter 2:19, Peter refers to this principle: People are slaves to whatever has mastered them. Has there been a time in your life where you were so enslaved to something you felt you couldn't do without it? To the degree you're comfortable in doing so, talk about what was like to be enslaved. Are you still in that season? What would it take for you not to be enslaved?
4. Peter closes his second letter by pleading with the readers to Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Would you say you're growing? What makes you say that? What are some of the best ways you can grow in your faith? Who are some people in your life that can help you grow?

## WRAP UP

Peter wrote his first letter to a large group of Jesus followers, reminding them to live as if Jesus was returning at anytime—and also to stand firm in their faith, even when it's difficult. In his second letter to the same people, Peter reminds them to stay focused in light of Jesus's return, and to not be caught off guard by false teachers of the day.

Peter's letters serve as a great reminder to us as well. We don't know when Jesus will return, so let's live with a sense of urgency, knowing God desires everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

## PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer. One idea is to have each person mention a way they can incorporate a greater sense of urgency in how they live out their faith. Then the leader can close in prayer, or each member can pray for God's strength to help them with what they had mentioned.

## TO MEMORIZE

Try to commit these passages to memory:

**The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9**

**His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life.  
2 Peter 1:3**

**People are slaves to whatever has mastered them.  
2 Peter 2:19**

