



*This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives as individuals and as a group. Therefore, spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. While the guide has been bulked up, you still need to prepare by praying through the passage, reviewing the guide on your own, and thinking about how your group might answer questions and follow-up questions.*

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## Overview of 2 Peter

### Background, Context and Structure

2 Peter is written by the apostle Peter, following his first letter, 1 Peter (2 Peter 1:1, 1:17-18, 3:1). Peter was anticipating his death while writing this epistle (1:14-15), speaking against certain false doctrines that were leading to immorality; warning against apostasy that can result through abandoning godliness (2:18-22). In his epistle, the themes of final judgement and the deity of Christ are imminent (1:3, v11 and v16-18), as Peter exhorts his readers to press on in godliness because of the coming final judgement (3:10-13), whilst drawing upon Christ's saving power and promises found in the gospel (1:3-4).

### Structure of Passage

V14-16: A call to be diligent in light of the return of Christ

V17-18: A warning to not be carried away by false teachings, losing one's stability, but to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

### Big idea of the text

Do not lose your stability, but grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, living in the light of his return by pursuing godliness

### What your CG must take away

Life under the gospel is characterised by pursuing holiness, and living for eternity.

**Read 2 Peter 3:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. <sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup> But 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.

1a. What are “these” which Peter’s audience is waiting for (verse 14)?

1b. How should we live in light of the coming judgement?

2. Consider what it means to be “at peace” with God. Now consider the second coming of Jesus Christ - when he comes to judge the world.

a. How would someone at peace with God likely behave at the thought of his return?

b. Conversely, how might someone not at peace with God, likely behave at the thought of his return?

3. Read 2 Peter 3:9, and note the parallels with 3:15. It would seem that 3:9 refers to how God desires his people to reach repentance. How then should we connect the notion of being “[being] diligent to be found by him without spot and blemish” with counting God’s patience as salvation (v15)?

4. Peter makes reference to Paul’s writings (verses 15-16). What purpose did Peter have in mind by doing this?

5a. How did the false teachers distort scripture?

5b. How have you witnessed scripture being twisted and distorted?

5c. Consider your life and your faith in Christ. How are you (or how have you been) susceptible to distortions of scripture?

6a. Peter’s life was not one without failures, shortcomings, and susceptibility to falsehood. Think about Peter’s own life. What were some times Peter failed as a Christian?

6b. How does the apostle’s life demonstrate that we all err in our faith?

6c. In scripture, we also read of the redemptive work of Christ in Peter's life. Read John 21:15-19 (and consider even the book of 2 Peter!).

How does growing in the "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ", maintain our stability and assure us of our salvation? How are we to consider the tension between grace and effort?

**Apply Practically**

Consider your life, and areas you are currently struggling with sin or are prone to err. What are some practical steps and measures you can take to:

- 1) Not be carried away by sin  
and;
- 2) Be assured of victory over sin through the redemptive work of Christ (Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus).

Share and encourage one another, praying for one another to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.