



*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).

### Getting to Christ

The gospel saves us from the corruption of this world, and into godliness through Christ Jesus.

### Big idea of the text

The glory and excellence of Jesus Christ has granted us all things pertaining to eternal life and godliness.

### What your CG must take away

For your group to make every effort to live godly lives because we have been given everything we need for life and godliness in the person of Jesus, and the gospel (his promises).

“Try harder.” You have probably been told that before, and you have probably said that to other people before. If we believe we are saved by grace alone, should we ever encourage each other to try harder in our faith?

**Read 2 Peter 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> *Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

*To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

<sup>2</sup> *May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

<sup>3</sup> *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.*

1. Who is Simeon Peter? Based on the text, why do you think he might be writing this letter?
2. What message is Peter trying to communicate to his audience by saying “to those who have obtained a faith of equal standing”?
3. Peter talks about “precious and very great promises” that have been granted to us by God. What are these precious and great promises? What is God’s plan for us? Why has he given us his precious and very great promises for?
4. Peter talks about “the divine nature”. What is he referring to? How do we obtain and partake in it?
- 5a. Look at the start of verse 5 (“For this very reason”). Why does Peter exhort his readers to “make every effort” to develop these qualities?
6. According to v5-7, what does genuine faith ultimately lead to?
- 7a. Which of these qualities (listed by Peter) do you struggle to exercise?
- 7b. According to Peter, how do we develop these specific qualities that you may struggle with? (Consider especially his flow of argument from v3-4 and v5-7.)
8. What are some practical ways you can practice these qualities (v5-7) and encourage each other to do so?

**Apply Practically**

Pray for each other for your specific weaknesses, and remind each other of the truth of the gospel. Ask God to make the knowledge of Jesus, and his promises, lead us you to make every effort to live a godly life.