

## **2 Peter and Jude: Discipleship Lessons Handouts for Group Participants**

If you're working with a class or small group, feel free to duplicate the following handouts in this appendix at no additional charge. If you'd like to print 8-1/2" x 11" sheets, you can download the free Participant Guide handout sheets at:

<http://www.jesuswalk.com/2peter/2peter-lesson-handouts.pdf>

### **Discussion Questions**

You'll find 4 to 5 questions for each lesson. Each question may include several sub-questions. These are designed to get group members engaged in discussion of the key points of the passage. If you're running short of time, feel free to skip questions or portions of questions.

1. Great and Precious Promises (2 Peter 1:1-4)
2. Add to your Faith Goodness (2 Peter 1:5-11)
3. The Living Word of Scripture (2 Peter 1:12-21)
4. Beware of False Teachers (2 Peter 2:1-22; Jude 3-19)
5. Not Willing that Any Should Perish (2 Peter 3:1-18)
6. Able to Keep You From Falling (Jude 1-2, 20-25)

## 1. Great and Precious Promises (2 Peter 1:1-4)

Q1. (2 Peter 1:1) What does “received a faith as precious as ours” mean in this verse? How does our faith compare to St. Peter’s faith? Is our faith equal to his? Why or why not? How do you explain the discrepancy?

Q2. (2 Peter 1:3) Meditate on this verse for a few minutes. It is a verse about provision. What are the scope and extent and boundaries of “everything we need for life and godliness”? What does “knowledge” or “knowing God” have to do with this promise?

Q3. (2 Peter 1:3) What does it mean for you personally to be called “by his own glory and goodness”? How does God’s glory and awesome Presence affect you? How does his goodness and moral excellence affect you?

Q4. (2 Peter 1:4) How can strong desires erode our faith and corrupt our lives? What strong desires can build our faith? What does a strong desire for God have to do with the “knowledge” of God, or “knowing” God? How are God’s promises and evil desires at odds with each other? How does one build and the other erode our faith?

## **2. Add to Your Faith Goodness (2 Peter 1:5-11)**

Q1. (2 Peter 1:5-6) Which of these virtues so far has been the easiest for you to move into? Which has been the hardest for you? Why?

Q2. (2 Peter 1:6) Why is a disciplined devotional life important to you? What happens when you forget or don't have time? What Christian disciplines do you employ to help you open your spirit to God's Spirit?

Q3. (2 Peter 1:7) Why do we imagine that "agape love" is easier than loving church members? If we avoid church because of our hurts at the hands of church members, can we mature fully in Christ? Why or why not?

Q4. (2 Peter 1:10) Why is Christian character an essential indicator of being saved or rescued by Christ? What Biblical assurance of salvation can you offer the fruitless, barren "believer"?

### 3. The Living Word of Scripture (2 Peter 1:12-21)

Q1. (2 Peter 1:13-15) Why does our culture avoid talking about death? How is describing your earthly body as a “tent” freeing and motivating? What is the significance of Peter referring to his death as a “departure” or “exodus”?

Q2. (2 Peter 1:19). In what ways do the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments act for you as “a light shining in a dark place”? What does the darkness represent? What does the light represent?

Q3. (2 Peter 1:20-21) How can a person be speaking and God be speaking, too? How does the image of a ship being moved by the wind help you understand this? (Greek *pneuma* means “spirit” and “wind.”)

Q4. (2 Timothy 3:16) If Scripture is “breathed” by God, how can it help us draw close to God? Why do you think God’s Spirit (*pneuma*, “breath, wind”) is so important in helping us understand Scripture?

#### **4. Beware of False Teachers (2 Peter 2:1-22; Jude 3-19)**

Q1. (Jude 3) Why must we “contend for the faith”? What is the danger in not challenging the doctrines of false teachers? What is the danger inherent in challenging them? How can we keep the correct balance?

Q2. (Jude 4) In what way does sexual sin deny Christ? If Paul is right in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, that persistent sexual sin is incompatible with salvation, why have we Christians become so complacent about it in our culture?

Q3. (2 Peter 2:19) In what way can flagrant, defiant sin enslave a person? Is there any way out of these sins? If so, what is the path? How can we truly love the sinner and hate the sin? How can we steer clear of a quick judgmental attitude toward those who sin?

Q4. (2 Peter 2:20-22) If open sin is so spiritually dangerous, why have we churches stopped talking about it so much?

## **5. Not Willing that Any Should Perish (2 Peter 3:1-18)**

Q1. (2 Peter 3:1-2) Why are reminders so important for Christians? How do you remind yourself of God's promises? How do you remind others?

Q2. (2 Peter 3:7-13). Why is it important for us to understand what it means to "perish"? Why are these truths underemphasized in our day? What effect does that have on us? How can we get an understanding of judgment into proper balance in our churches and teaching?

Q3. (2 Peter 3:9) According to Peter, why has Christ's coming been delayed? What does this teach us about God?

Q4. (2 Peter 3:9) Why does our culture resist the ideas of sin and repentance? Can there be salvation without repentance? Can you think of a time in your own life when repentance was difficult for you? Why was it difficult?

Q5. (2 Peter 3:11-12, 14-16) What effect should a belief in Christ's return and coming judgment have on your life? What effect does an underemphasis on Christ's return have on a Christian's life?

## **6. Able to Keep You From Falling (Jude 1-2, 20-25)**

Q1. (Jude 1) Which of these three privileges catches your attention more than the others? Why is it so special to you? How does it encourage your faith?

Q2. (Jude 20a) Why does God make you responsible to “build up” your own Christian faith? What are you doing on a regular basis to obey this command? What should you begin to do that will help you be built up better?

Q3. (Jude 21a) What does it mean to “keep yourself in God’s love”? What are you doing to strengthen your love relationship with God? What more could you do that might help?

Q4. (Jude 24) What does it mean to you that God is guarding you from falling? How can you explain God’s exultant joy towards you? How will God manage to present you to himself “blameless”? How does that work?