

# **Standing on the Promises: Studies in 2 Peter by Marsha B. Hays**



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A Note to Small Group Leaders:

God has given us so many precious and magnificent promises in His Word! This study of 2 Peter explores just a few of these and encourages us to live with them always in mind.

Each session of the Leader's Guide is followed by student listening sheets. Answers to the blanks in the student sheets are written in ALL CAPS throughout the leader guide. Scripture references are taken from the NASB. Answers will vary with other translations. Leaders may consider using a parallel Bible with several translations that your students may be using or provide everyone with the same Bible translation.

Lessons are meant to be very easy to follow and adapt to your own teaching style and group dynamics. The first session is a little longer than the rest. Hopefully, students will be geared up for a great start!

The final session is based on a DVD of *Noah and the Last Days* by Ray Comfort. They are very inexpensive to purchase or you can watch the video free online at [www.noahthemovie.com](http://www.noahthemovie.com) to help you prepare. It should lead to some great discussion. Sensitive issues are discussed, so be sure to preview to determine suitability for your group.

You have permission to copy lessons for personal study and local church use. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I pray God uses this study to change the lives of your students through His Word.

In His service,

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## Leader Guide

### 2 Peter 1

#### Motivation:

If your group does not know each other or the leader well, take time to share a little about yourselves. Encourage youth to spend time getting to know one another and be fully present, rather than spending virtual time with friends on their phones.

Introduce the theme of the study, “Standing on the Promises.” Ask youth to think of a time in their lives when a promise was broken and when a promise was fulfilled. Share each from your own experiences, then allow volunteers to share. Discuss the feelings involved in both situations.

#### Transition:

How does our experience with promises affect your trust in the promises of God? Is it harder to trust Him when others have let you down? Even those who love us most will sometime fail, but God never fails. We can stand on His promises, knowing we are on solid ground that will hold forever.

As we study 2 Peter this weekend, we will discover some of God’s most precious promises.

#### Examination:

**Read 2 Peter 1:1-4** (Greeting)

#### Discuss:

Who was Peter? (Allow for responses, then fill in if needed. Include these facts: fisherman, one of Jesus closest 3 disciples, walked on water, made the famous confession “You are the Christ, the Son of living God,” denied Jesus 3 times, preached at Pentecost, traditionally crucified upside-down.)

What did he call himself? (bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ) Define these if needed.

Who was he writing to? (those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours—FELLOW CHRISTIANS, INCLUDING US TODAY)

How can grace and peace be multiplied to us? (vs2 KNOWING JESUS)

We first know *about* Jesus through God’s Word. We *know* Jesus by repenting of our sins and by faith receiving Him as Savior (more about this later), then we *know* Him *better* through His Word. Grace is the loving favor He gives to us that we do nothing to deserve. Resting in His grace—trusting He has done all necessary for our salvation and He is in control— multiplies peace in our hearts.

Multiplied—Applied many times—every time we need it

Through knowing Jesus we have EVERYTHING pertaining to LIFE and GODLINESS. He is all we need. He is more than enough. v3

Reread 2 Peter 1:4

As Christians we have become partakers (take part in) the divine nature (who God is). We have escaped the corruption in the world by its lusts (not sexual lust, but any sinful desires—wanting things we should not have).

Our Disciple Now theme is *Standing on the Promises*. Name some of your favorites of the PRECIOUS and MAGNIFICENT promises of God. (Later youth will have a chance to write these on slips of paper and add them to the display during worship.)

Which promise is most precious to you? Why? (Share your answer, then encourage volunteers to share.)

**Read 2 Peter 1:5-11**

Ask a volunteer to search *diligence* on a cell phone using [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com). (constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken; persistent exertion of body or mind) Point out this word each time it is used in 2 Peter.

List and discuss each the qualities we are to show to be fruitful

- FAITH
- MORAL EXCELLENCE
- KNOWLEDGE
- SELF-CONTROL
- PERSEVERANCE
- GODLINESS
- BROTHERLY KINDNESS
- LOVE

Notice the progression. Faith in Christ comes before we can live morally, grow in knowledge, or possess these other qualities.

What do these qualities do for us?

- USEFUL AND FRUITFUL IN THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (VS 8)
- NEVER STUMBLE (V10)
- HAVE ABUNDANT ENTRANCE IN TO THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST (V11)

Note the use of diligent again in verse 10.

Have you ever heard anyone say something like this? “I just want to make it to Heaven by the skin of my teeth.” What’s wrong with this attitude?

Verse 11 states that if we practice these things, the entrance will be ABUNDANTLY supplied. Though we are saved by grace through faith, not by showing these qualities, these things are evidence of our salvation and produce spiritual fruit in our lives.

Take a careful look at your own life. Are these qualities present and increasing? If not, what does that mean according to verse 9? (YOU ARE BLIND OR SHORT-SIGHTED, HAVING FORGOTTEN YOUR PURIFICATION FROM YOUR FORMER SINS)

### Read 2 Peter 1:12-15

What does Peter mean by “earthly dwelling”? (HIS BODY) Why does he mean by “the laying aside my earthly dwelling is imminent”? (I WILL DIE SOON)

Sometimes it may seem many of the things you hear at church or youth group, or even Disciple Now are things you already know. What are some things you hear your youth teacher/ leader say often?

How many times have you been told, “Read your Bible, pray, go to church”? Like Peter, your parents and church leaders consider it right to remind you of these things and other important matters so that when they are not around, you will remember them easily, and, hopefully, follow them on your own. THEY WANT TO BE DILIGENT (VS 15) TO MAKE SURE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER.

### Read 2 Peter 1:16-18

Refer to the Transfiguration of Jesus in Matthew 17:1-8. (Read it together if time permits).

Why can we believe Peter? Peter and the disciples did not make up the stories about Jesus. THEY WERE EYEWITNESSES. It is hard to share Christ with others if you are not an eye witness to your own salvation and experiences following Jesus. They heard the actual voice of God, but God also calls all Christians to salvation. Your testimony is probably the greatest way to witness to others. Tell youth about when God called you.

Read 2 Peter 1:19-21

What do we learn about Scripture from these verses?

IT IS LIKE A LAMP SHINING IN A DARK PLACE  
NOT OPEN TO OUR OWN INTERPRETATION  
NOT MADE BY HUMAN WILL  
FROM GOD THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Application:

Wow, Peter covers a lot in this first chapter. Look back through your notes and ask God what He is teaching you specifically through this study. Jot down your thoughts. How will you apply what you are learning? (Give them time to answer, then allow volunteers to share.)

### Prayer:

Pray specifically for student to be open to God’s Word this weekend and for any who may not know Christ.

Ask youth to take a few minutes to write out their testimony. Offer to talk to anyone who may not have a testimony. (Take time before the weekend is over to talk to each student individually about his or her testimony and any prayer needs the student may be willing to share.)

**2 Peter 1  
Student Guide**

Promises: Broken and Fulfilled

How does your experience with promises affect your trust in the promises of God? Is it hard to trust Him when so many others have let you down?

**2 Peter 1:1-4**

Who was Peter?

Who was he writing to?

How can grace and peace be multiplied\* to us?

\*Multiplied—applied many times—every time we need it!

Through knowing Jesus we have \_\_\_\_\_ pertaining to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Promises (2 Peter 1:4)

List some of your favorite promises from God.

Diligence:

**2 Peter 1:5-11**

Fruitful Qualities

- +
- +
- +
- +
- +
- +
- +
- +

Advantages of these Qualities

- +
- +
- +

Take a careful look at your own life. Are these qualities present and increasing? If not, what does that mean according to verse 9?

**2 Peter 1:12-15**

“Earthly dwelling” =

“Laying aside my earthly dwelling is imminent” =

Why is Peter (as well as your parents, youth leaders, etc.) repeating things his readers already know?

**2 Peter 1:16-18**

Why can we believe Peter and the other apostles?

**2 Peter 1:19-21**

Characteristics of Scripture

- +
- +
- +
- +

What is God teaching you specifically through this study?

How will you apply what you are learning?

**Student Guide 1 Continued**

Imagine you are sharing your testimony with a friend. Use these questions if you need help getting started. If you don't have testimony, please take time to talk to your small group leader or youth minister today.

What was your life like before you knew Jesus? How did you know you needed salvation? How did you come to know Jesus as Savior? What difference is your relationship with Jesus making in your life now?



## 2 Peter 2

### Motivation:

Divide into three groups. Assign each group one of the following passages. Have groups act out the passage charades style while other groups try to guess their story or main character. Share additional information (or ask youth to share more) about each story, especially Balaam since many may not be familiar with the story.

NOAH: Genesis 6:5-8 & 13-22, Genesis 7: 17-24, Genesis 8:13-19

LOTT: Genesis 19:1-29

BALAAM: Numbers 22:1-35

### Transition:

Any ideas what these three people have in common?

Peter uses each of these Old Testament characters as examples in his letter. Knowing this background information will help us understand what Peter is saying to his readers and to us.

### Examination:

#### 2 Peter 2:1-3 False Teachers

Is this happening today? (Ask for examples— JEHOVAH WITNESSES, MORMONS, WORD OF FAITH, SOME TV EVANGELISTS, ETC.)

Why do you think so many people follow these leaders? (One possibility is they don't know scripture well enough to recognize them as false teachers.)

#### Read 2 Peter 2:4-9 God Rescues & Judges

##### 3 Examples of Judgment

Angels, ancient world (Noah/flood), Sodom & Gomorrah

##### 2 Examples of rescue: Noah, Lot

Notice how Lot felt as he lived in the land of Sodom. How does Peter describe Lot's situation? (oppressed by the sensual conduct, righteous soul tormented)

Those are strong words. Do you ever feel oppressed or tormented by the evil around you? Rampant, open sin should more than "bother" Christians who live in its influence. Even as Christians we sometimes take the world's attitude of "It may not be okay for me, but if it's okay for you that's fine." We cannot stay under the constant influence of sin and take it lightly. We are to be witnesses and love the lost, but we should not make ourselves at home in the midst of sin. We must develop friendships with all people, but those closest to us, who influence our daily lives, need to be like-minded Christians who encourage us in our walk with the Lord.

Verse 9 gives another great promise—The Lord knows how to RESCUE the godly from TEMPTATION, and to keep the UNRIGHTEOUSNESS under punishment for the day of JUDGMENT.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Both Paul and Peter remind us that a Christian can never say, “The devil made me do it,” or “I couldn’t help it.” God always provides us a way out, but we are responsible to take it.

Divide into teams of 2. Assign groups one or two of the following verses. Ask them to look for words & phrases that describe these false teachers. As they list the phrases, discuss those that need more explanation. (They don’t need to write down all of the phrases, just the ones assigned to them and any they want to add. Some will spend too much time feeling like they have to write everything down, while others will write nothing.)

### **2 Peter 2:10-19** Description of the unrighteous

V 10 INDULGE IN FLESH, DESPISE AUTHORITY DARING, SELF-WILLED, REVILING

V 11 LIKE UNREASONING ANIMALS, CREATURES OF INSTINCT, REVILING

Ask a volunteer to search *reviling* on a cell phone using [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com).

V 12 SUFFERING WRONG, REVEL IN THE DAYTIME, ARE STAINS AND BLEMISHES, REVEL IN DECEPTION, CAROUSE

Ask a volunteer to search *revel* on a cell phone using [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com). What is the significance of reveling in the daytime? (They are sinning openly and not ashamed to be seen taking pleasure in it.)

V 13 SUFFERING WRONG

V 14 EYES FULL OF ADULTERY, ENTICING, GREEDY HEART, ACCURSED

V 15 FORSAKING THE RIGHT WAY, GONE ASTRAY, LOVE WAGES OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

V 17 STRINGS WITHOUT WATER, MISTS DRIVEN BY STORM, RESERVED FOR DARKNESS

V 18 SPEAKING ARROGANTLY, ENTICE,

V 19 PROMISE FREEDOM, SLAVES TO CORRUPTION

(note unfulfilled promises vs the eternal promises of God)

Peter doesn’t sugar coat it. He gives a detailed description, and none of it is good. We do not want to follow people like this or live in this description ourselves.

Verse 19 says we are slaves to whatever overcomes us. (for by what a man is OVERCOME, by this he is ENSLAVED)

Are you overcome? Maybe it’s alcohol, pornography, drugs, gossip, or something else entirely. Jesus says, “If the son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” (Jn 8:36) You do not have to remain a slave of corruption. “Greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world.” (1 Jn 4:4)

### **2 Peter 2:20-22**

2 Gross Analogies: PIG/MUD, DOG/VOMIT

It's such a gross analogy, but have you ever seen a dog eat his own vomit? How much more sickening for those who KNOW THE TRUTH OF JESUS TO RETURN TO BE ENTANGLED AND OVERCOME BY THE WORLD!

Can you think of anyone who fits this description? (Using discretion, share from your own experience of people who have turned away from their faith.)

This is a warning to all of us here right now who know the truth of Jesus. We have heard and understood the good news of Jesus. It is better not to know, then to knowingly turn away from Christ. This situation is likely a case of "false conversion." A person hears the gospel and appears to accept it or maybe even thinks he or she accepts it. They may have said a prayer, but never truly repented and in faith trusted Jesus.

**Application:**

What about you? As Baptists, we believe that those who truly know Jesus as Savior are eternally saved, but many who claim to be Christians live like the description of false teachers. Salvation is not just saying a prayer, it is giving yourself completely to Jesus.

You know the have heard the truth, probably many times. Take time now to search your heart. Please come talk to one of our leaders today if you do not know Jesus. A pig or dog is not a pretty picture for those who were meant to be children of a Holy, righteous God.

Ask youth to separate and spread out around the room. Remind them again that you are available. Pray, then play a worshipful song as youth pray silently. Encourage them to reverently leave the room when they finish and remain quiet so they will not disturb others to whom God may be speaking.

**Student Guide**

**2 Peter 2**

3 Old Testament Examples

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- +
- +

**2 Peter 2:1-3**

Examples of False Teachers Today

**2 Peter 2:4-9**

3 Examples of God's Judgment

- +
- +
- +

2 Examples of God's Rescue

- +
- +

The Lord know how to \_\_\_\_\_ the godly from \_\_\_\_\_, and to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ under punishment for the day of \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Peter 2:10-19**

Description of the Unrighteousness

For by what a man is \_\_\_\_\_, by this he is \_\_\_\_\_.

Are you overcome?

**2 Peter 2:20-22**

2 Gross Analogies                      Both Compared to

What about you? You know the truth. How will you respond?

## Leader Guide

### 2 Peter 3

#### Motivation:

Ask you to list things they would like to do before Jesus returns. Ask them to pick a top three to share with the group.

#### Transition:

Do you believe Jesus is returning soon? Why or why not?

If we could really understand what awaits those who know Jesus, none of these other things would matter. Our limited minds can't really grasp eternity. The good things He has provide for here are all we know.

But just as it is written,  
"Things which eye has not SEEN and ear has not HEARD,  
And *which* have not entered the HEART of man,  
All that God has prepared for those who LOVE HIM." 1 Corinthians 2:9

#### Examination:

##### Read 2 Peter 3:1-2

What image does the words "stirring up" bring to mind? Draw a symbol for it. (Affirm all appropriate responses, but compare to stirring up a dying fire to renew the flames)

As in Chapter 1, Peter affirms the importance of Scripture, both the OLD TESTAMENT (words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets) and the NEW TESTAMENT (commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles). The Bible is the primary God speaks to His people. If you really want to get to know God, stay in His Word.

##### Read 2 Peter 3:3-7 Questioning His Promise

When we share Christ and talk about Him returning for His people and to judge the world, there will always be some who mock. The early Christians expected Jesus to return immediately. Everyday they lived with an expectant thought: "This could be the day!" Instead of *standing on the promises*, the mockers doubted His promise. In their view, everything is continuing just as it always has.

Have you ever felt this way? When or why?

Even Christians sometimes look at the world and think, "Well, people have been saying Jesus is returning soon for hundreds of years.

Peter says this way of thinking forgets about two major events in history. What are they? (CREATION AND THE FLOOD—Noah again!)

Read Luke 17:26-30. (SODOM)

The world has NOT always gone on the same. God has brought about judgement, and He will again—this time with fire (v7).

So if He coming soon, why the delay? Do you ever look at the evil in the world and wonder why Jesus doesn't go ahead and come back, punish evil, and reward His people? What recent events might lead us to wonder these things? (Let youth answer—possibly the burning of the teen in North Mississippi, the beheading of children by ISIS, loved ones suffering from cancer, etc.)

Peter helps his readers then and us today find the answers.

### **Read 2 Peter 3:8-9**

In the scope of eternity it hasn't been very long since Jesus left. If 1000 years is a day, how long has it been? (It hasn't even been three days!)

The 1000 years is as a day isn't meant to be a literal explanation of God's timetable, though. It shows us that God is outside of time. His eternal perspective is so much above ours.

Look at verse 9 again. This is our theme verse for the weekend. According to 2 Peter 2:9, why hasn't Jesus returned? (He is patient and wants more people to repent.)

The Lord is not SLOW about His promise, as some count slowness, but is PATIENT toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for ALL to come to REPENTANCE. 2 Peter 3:9

Wow! Doesn't that change things. At the beginning of the lesson we discussed some things you want to do before Christ returns. We sometimes want to delay Jesus' return because of our own desires, but have you ever hoped He would wait a little while so a person you love will receive His gift of salvation first?

List people who your are praying will soon accept Christ as Savior. Maybe some people you know are not saved, and others you think may not be saved because of their actions. Pray daily that God will open their hearts and be ready to share the gospel when God gives you opportunity.

Stop and pray now for those who aren't saved. Ask God to give us a desire to for His return, and a sense of urgency in praying for and sharing Christ with those who don't know Him.

### **Read 2 Peter 3:10-13**

#### 3 Precious & Magnificent Promises

JESUS WILL RETURN

HE WILL DESTROY THE PRESENT WORLD

HE WILL CREATE A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

How should we respond to what we know about Christ's return? How do we apply these truths to our daily lives?

### **Read 2 Peter 3:11-18.**

Peter tells us how to respond.

Verse 11 - "Since all these things are to be destroyed, . . ." Verse 14 - "since you look for these things . . ."

List what Christians should do in the meantime from verses 11-18. (You may want to assign verses to individuals or teams of 2) Discuss practical ways to follow these instructions.

11 LIVE IN HOLY CONDUCT AND GODLINESS

12 BE LOOKING FOR AND HASTENING THE DAY OF GOD

13 BE DILIGENT (THERE IT IS AGAIN) TO BE FOUND IN PEACE, SPOTLESS AND BLAMELESS

14 REGARD HIS PATIENCE AS SALVATION

17 BE ON GUARD (KEEPING IN MIND THAT PEOPLE WILL TRY TO DISTORT SCRIPTURE AND DECEIVE YOU)

18 GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS JESUS (DISCUSS WHAT LORD MEANS & HOW WE GROW)

### **Application:**

Peter used the word diligent through his letter. In the final encourages readers to be diligent to be found by Him (upon His return) in peace, spotless and blameless. He is returning soon though we don't know the day or hour. What areas of your life do you need to allow the Holy Spirit to work for this to be true in your life? What practical ways can you do this? (Allow time for students to consider and write down answers.)

### **Praying the Scriptures**

The things God reveals in His Word are always according to His will. When we pray, we can pray the scriptures, knowing we are praying rightly.

Ask a volunteer (or divide among several volunteers) to pray using the phrases from the list/verses above. (Father, since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, help us live in holy conduct and godliness. God, give us a desire to be looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God. etc.)

At the end, repeat the last phrase of the 2 Peter together, but directing it toward God. "To You be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

**Student Guide**

**2 Peter 3**

“My Jesus is Returning” Bucket List

“Things which eye has not \_\_\_\_\_ and ear has not \_\_\_\_\_,  
And *which* have not entered the \_\_\_\_\_ of man,  
All that God has prepared for those who \_\_\_\_\_.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

**2 Peter 3:1-2**

Stirring up your sincere mind

Words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets =

Commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles =

**2 Peter 3:3-7**

“Jesus is coming soon? People have been saying that for hundreds of years!”

Have you ever felt like some of these mockers?

3 Major Historical Events

- +
- +
- +

What current events may make us wonder why Jesus doesn't come back now to rescue His people and punish evil?

**2 Peter 2:8-9 God's Calendar**

1 Day =

1,000 Years =



Peter's Answer

The Lord is not \_\_\_\_\_ about His promise, as some count slowness, but is \_\_\_\_\_ toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for \_\_\_\_\_ to come to \_\_\_\_\_ . 2 Peter 3:9

List lost friends/family you pray will accept Christ before His return.

**2 Peter 3:10-13**

3 Precious and Magnificent Promises

- +
- +
- +

**2 Peter 3:11-18**

How should we respond to what we know about Christ's return?

Praying the Scriptures

Use the phrases above to pray for yourself and your group.

Close together:

"To You be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

## Leader Guide

### 2 Peter follow-up: Noah, one more time!

Preview the DVD with a discussion of the recent Hollywood version of Noah.

View *Noah the Movie* by Ray Comfort. This documentary uses many of the themes from 2 Peter, such as Noah, false teachers, and judgement. Hopefully, it will help bring together the study into practical life. Encourage youth to write down questions or comments they may during the video to use during discussion time.

Discuss anything that stands out to you and your students. Begin with their reaction to some of the questions and comments, then focus on how Ray used questions to share Christ. Ask you to share some of his ways of witnessing that they might actually be able to use.

Students can share the video with friends by sending them to [www.noahthemovie.com](http://www.noahthemovie.com). They can view it free online.

Pray for the lost and boldness to use some of these Questions and answers to share Christ with others.

As you close the last session, pray out loud specifically for each student.

Be sure to follow up on any salvation questions or other issues that may need further attention or counseling.

**Student Guide**

**2 Peter Follow-Up: Noah, One more time!**

***Noah and The Last Days***

Use this page to jot down questions or comments during the movie. You will use these for discussion afterwards.

(*Noah and The Last Days* is a great witnessing tool. Send your friends to [www.noahthemovie.com](http://www.noahthemovie.com) where they can watch it online for free.)