
2Peter

The book of **2Peter** is Peter's letter to the church to:

- Grow in faith and trust the Scriptures (**2Peter 1**).
- Beware of false teachers (**2Peter 2**).
- Look for Christ's return (**2Peter 3**).

2Peter is a glimpse into the life of the Apostle Peter, who knows that his time on earth is ending soon. He wants to give a farewell encouragement and warning.

Personal Reflection and Application

2Peter 1:5-9 gives a natural **process for spiritual growth**. It serves as a pattern for us to follow. Are you "giving all diligence" in your Christian walk? When you do this, you will add virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. Where are you in the process? What do you need most? If you focus on these, **2Peter 1:10** says "you will never stumble." However, if you lack these things, you will be "shortsighted" and have no vision!

Read **2Peter 2**. Find and list verses that describe the four "D" words that indicate a false teacher (destruction, doom, depravity, deception). False teachers are not always easy to spot. Armed with the knowledge that salvation is a gift that you cannot reverse once you accept it, what are ways you can identify a false teacher?

Small Group Conversation Guide

Peter was speaking as an eyewitness of Christ's power and glory (**2Peter 1:11**). He had an **urgent message** to deliver before he departed the world. Discuss what we can apply from Peter's message. What happens when we are not diligent in pursuing faith (talking with God) and knowledge (reading God's Word)? The Christians during Peter's time needed reminders to be steadfast. In what ways is it easier or more difficult for Christians today to remain steadfast?

Read **2Peter 3:17-18**. Underline the words "beware" and "grow." In the Greek, **beware** means to guard, observe, or watch. **Grow** refers to inward Christian increase. Peter is telling us to be ready for Christ's return while we continue to grow spiritually. Why do we need to always be ready? Do you believe Christ could return at any moment? What are you doing to continue your spiritual growth?

Leadership Principles from 2Peter

Divine Urgency

Do you live with a **divine urgency** about your life? Peter did. In **2Peter 1:3**, he said "...as long as I am in this tent [I will] stir you up by reminding you..." As a leader, do you recognize your frailty and brevity? Consider this your challenge to "stir" others up while you are still in your tent! How can you stir someone else up in their faith **today**?

Lean on Him

Read **2Peter 1**. As a leader, how do you draw upon Christ's glory when God calls you to lead but you don't feel well? How do you set an example of leadership when you or others struggle with health issues but things must still get done? How do you lean on Him? Do you serve or expect to be served?

Great Leader or Maniac?

How might you be able to tell the difference between a **great leader** and a **maniac** (**2Peter 2:20-22**)? What is it about the human condition that tempts people to follow "false leaders"? How can you avoid being a false leader?

Demonstrate Personal Growth

As a leader, how do you remain alert to changes or issues (**2Peter 3:17-18**)? How do you **demonstrate personal growth** as a leader? What steps are you taking to make yourself a better leader? What is the point of light others will see in you and ask you why? How challenging is it for you to show you are ready for Christ's return?

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter. Try these:

01. How Scripture is more reliable than any experience	02. What false teachers will do to themselves and others
03.-What two qualities of Christ we need for growth	