

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

Course Text: Second Peter

It seems like Second Peter was written for us today. Certainly we are surrounded by many false teachers who claim to be Christian but teach falsehood instead. Huge churches are built on greed, and large congregations support pastors who seem to be interested in nothing but their own lusts. This little book has only 61 verses in its 3 chapters so we are going to spend a lot of this lesson reading about Peter, who wrote the letter, before we read the letter itself.

Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 7. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Second Peter.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

CHARACTER BUILDER

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

- 2 PETER 1:5-7 NIV

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Peter in Matthew, John and Acts

Read these passages about Peter in Matthew and answer the associated questions:

- [M1] Matthew 4:18 What kind of work did Simon Peter do? _____
- [M2] Matthew 10:2 Who was the first apostle? _____
- [M3] Matthew 14:22-33 What did Peter do when he began to sink? _____
- [M4] Matthew 26:30-35 How many times did Jesus say Peter would deny Him? _____
- [M5] Matthew 26:69-75 How many times did Peter deny Jesus? _____

Read these passages about Peter in John and answer the associated questions:

- [J1] John 1:40-43 Who gave Simon the name Peter? _____
- [J2] John 6:66-69 What kind of words did Peter say that Jesus had? _____
- [J3] John 13:5-9 Who washed Peter's feet? _____
- [J4] John 18:1-13 Who cut off Malchus' ear? _____
- [J5] John 20:1-10 What did Peter find in Jesus' tomb? _____
- [J6] John 21:1-17 How many times did Jesus tell Peter to take care of His sheep? _____

Read these passages about Peter in Acts and answer the associated questions:

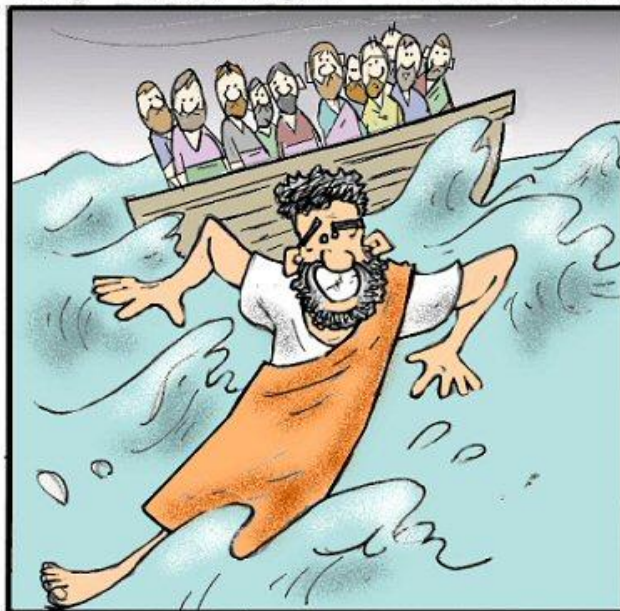
- [A1] Acts 1:12-26 Who took leadership of the disciples? _____
- [A2] Acts 3:1-26 Who healed the lame beggar by pulling him to his feet? _____
What are the results of repentance and turning to God? _____
- [A3] Acts 4:1-23 What teaching disturbed the Jewish leaders? _____
- [A4] Acts 5:1-32 Who accurately predicted the death of Sapphira? _____
Whose shadow was thought to bring healing to the sick? _____
- [A5] Acts 9:32-43 Who told the girl to rise up from the dead? _____
- [A6] Acts 10:1-48 Who told Peter to go to Caesarea? _____
- [A7] Acts 11:1-18 What evidence did Peter give that convinced the disciples to accept gentiles as
Christian brothers? _____
- [A8] Acts 12:1-19 Who prayed for Peter to be released? _____
Who hit Peter in the side? _____
- [A9] Acts 15:1-12 According to Peter, how are we saved? _____

----- ANSWERS -----

Peter in Matthew, John and Acts

- [M1] Matthew 4:18 What kind of work did Simon Peter do? Fisherman
[M2] Matthew 10:2 Who was the first apostle? Simon Peter
[M3] Matthew 14:22-33 What did Peter do when he began to sink? Asked the Lord for help Mt 14:30
[M4] Matthew 26:30-35 How many times did Jesus say Peter would deny Him? Three Mt 26:34
[M5] Matthew 26:69-75 How many times did Peter deny Jesus? Three
- [J1] John 1:40-43 Who gave Simon the name Peter? Jesus Jn 1:42
[J2] John 6:66-69 What kind of words did Peter say that Jesus had? words of eternal life Jn 6:68
[J3] John 13:5-9 Who washed Peter's feet? Jesus
[J4] John 18:1-13 Who cut off Malchus' ear? Peter Jn 18:10
[J5] John 20:1-10 What did Peter find in Jesus' tomb? Empty grave clothes Jn 20:6-7
[J6] John 21:1-17 How many times did Jesus tell Peter to take care of His sheep? Three Jn 21:15-17
- [A1] Acts 1:12-26 Who took leadership of the disciples? Peter Acts 1:15
[A2] Acts 3:1-26 Who healed the lame beggar by pulling him to his feet? Peter Ac 3:6-7
What are the results of repentance and turning to God? Sins are wiped away Ac 3:19
[A3] Acts 4:1-23 What teaching disturbed the Jewish leaders? The Resurrection Ac 4:2
[A4] Acts 5:1-32 Who accurately predicted the death of Sapphira? Peter Ac 5:9-10
Whose shadow was thought to bring healing to the sick? Peter's Ac 5:15
[A5] Acts 9:32-43 Who told the girl to rise up from the dead? Peter Ac 9:40
[A6] Acts 10:1-48 Who told Peter to go to Caesarea? The Holy Spirit Ac 10:19-20
[A7] Acts 11:1-18 What evidence did Peter give that convinced the disciples to accept gentiles as Christian brothers?
The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Ac 11:15-18
[A8] Acts 12:1-19 Who prayed for Peter to be released? The church of God Ac 12:5
Who hit Peter in the side? the Angel Ac 12:7
[A9] Acts 15:1-12 According to Peter, how are we saved? by the Lord's grace Ac 15:11

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Peter.. contestant on All Gospel Fear Factor
Water-Walking **Mt. 14:23-31**

Second Peter Chapters 1 to 3

2nd Peter 1 "In this chapter we have, I. An introduction, or preface, making way for, and leading to, what is principally designed by the apostle (v. 1-4). II. An exhortation to advance and improve in all Christian graces (v. 5-7). III. To enforce this exhortation, and engage them seriously and heartily to comply with it, he adds, 1. A representation of the very great advantage which will thereby accrue to them (v. 8-11). 2. A promise of the best assistance the apostle was able to give to facilitate and forward this good work (v. 12-15). 3. A declaration of the certain truth and divine origin of the gospel of Christ, in the grace whereof they were exhorted to increase and persevere." Matthew Henry's Commentary
Read Second Peter Chapter 1 and answer these questions:

- [1a] What has been given to us through knowledge of Him? _____
- [1b] Whoever lacks the good qualities listed has forgotten what? _____
- [1c] What does Peter think is going to happen to him soon? _____
- [1d] What is the source of prophecy in the Scripture? _____

2nd Peter 2 "The apostle, having in the foregoing chapter exhorted them to proceed and advance in the Christian race, now comes to remove, as much as in him lay, what he could not but apprehend would hinder their complying with his exhortation. He therefore gives them fair warning of false teachers, by whom they might be in danger of being seduced. To prevent this, I. He describes these seducers as impious in themselves, and very pernicious to others (v. 1-3). II. He assures them of the punishment that shall be inflicted on them (v. 3-6). III. He tells us how contrary the method is which God takes with those who fear him (v. 7-9). IV. He fills up the rest of the chapter with a further description of those seducers of whom he would have them beware. " Matthew Henry's Commentary
Read Second Peter Chapter 2 and answer these questions:

- [2a] False teachers will take advantage of many because of what? _____
- [2b] What cities were destroyed as an example to the ungodly? _____
- [2c] Who knows how to rescue the godly from temptation? _____
- [2d] The slaves of corruption promise what? _____

2nd Peter 3 "The apostle drawing towards the conclusion of his second epistle, begins this last chapter with repeating the account of his design and scope in writing a second time to them (v. 1-2). II. He proceeds to mention one thing that induced him to write this second epistle, namely, the coming of scoffers, whom he describes (v. 3-7). III. He instructs and establishes them in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to judgment (v. 8-10). IV. He sets forth the use and improvement which Christians ought to make of Christ's second coming, and that dissolution and renovation of things which will accompany that solemn coming of our Lord (v. 11-18)." Matthew Henry's Commentary
Read Second Peter Chapter 3 and answer these questions:

- [3a] Whose words are we to remember? _____
- [3b] By what are the heavens and earth being reserved for fire, judgment and destruction? _____
- [3c] What will be new according to His promise? _____

----- ANSWERS -----

Second Peter Chapters 1 to 3

- [1a] What has been given to us through knowledge of Him? Everything to do with life and godliness 2Pt 1:3
[1b] Whoever lacks the good qualities listed has forgotten what? His cleansing from former sins 2Pt 1:9
[1c] What does Peter think is going to happen to him soon? Death 2Pt 1:14
[1d] What is the source of prophecy in the Scripture. Holy Spirit, God 2Pt 1:20-21
- [2a] False teachers will take advantage of many because of what? Greed 2Pt 2:3
[2b] What cities were destroyed as an example to the ungodly? Sodom & Gomorrah 2Pt 2:6
[2c] Who knows how to rescue the godly from temptation? the Lord 2Pt 2:9
[2d] The slaves of corruption promise what? Freedom 2Pt 2:19
Being slaves they can not deliver freedom to themselves let alone anyone else.
- [3a] Whose words are we to remember?
the holy prophets and commandments of our Lord and Savior as spoken by the apostles 2Pt 3:2
[3b] By what are the present heavens and earth being reserved for fire, judgment and destruction? His word 2Pt 3:7
[3c] What will be new according to His promise? heavens and earth 2Pt 3:13

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Family Devotions at dinner is a wonderful tradition.. BUT using random scripture readings proved risky for the Tidbow family.

(1) Read Matthew 16:13-23. Jesus calls Peter four different things in this passage – [A] Simon son of John (or Barjona which is Hebrew for “son of John”), [B] rock, [C] stumbling block (sometimes translated hindrance, obstacle or offense) and [D] Satan. What does this tell us about Peter, and his relationship with Jesus?

Think & Pray _____

(2) Read 2nd Peter 2:9. Explain what you think it means.

Think & Pray _____

(3) What do you think is the most important things 2nd Peter tells us about false teachers?

Think & Pray _____

(4) If someone asked you what Second Peter was about what would you say?

Think & Pray _____

(5) How can the lessons of Second Peter be applied to our own life?

Think & Pray _____

(6) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from Second Peter? Why?

Think & Pray _____

If you have any questions about Second Peter, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

----- ANSWERS -----

(1) PETER'S NAMES: Simon Barjona (or Simon, son of John) is the name his parents gave him. Simon was his given name which was from the Hebrew name Simeon. This was one of the sons of Jacob and it was Hebrew for "heard." Gen 29:33 explains that he was named that because God answered Leah's (Simeon's mother) prayer. Barjona was his surname, or as close to a surname as they had back then. The words "Peter" and "rock" in verse 18 are the same word in the Greek. Peter is the masculine form and rock is the feminine form. Peter referred to Simon Peter, Peter being his new surname, and rock referred to the founding of the church of Jesus Christ. "Stumbling block," "hindrance," "trap," or "offense" (depending on what version you are using) is the Greek word "skandalon" which is where we get our word scandal. It literally meant the key part of any trap, the part that made it work. The reason the Greek word is translated so many different ways is because there is no English word or term that means the same thing. ("trip wire" maybe?) Satan of course is the name of the leader of God's enemies.

All this tells us that Peter and Jesus were close friends. Who else would you call by the name his mother gave him, tell him you were putting all your hopes on him, tell him he was a big bother and your worst enemy all in the space of five minutes? Clearly the last two are hyperbole, that is to say, just a figurative way to say, "I'm angry with you for saying exactly the wrong thing at exactly the wrong time."

(2) 2nd PETER 2:9: This is for me a tremendous comfort. It means that it all depends on God, not me. Thank God. If it was up to me, it would be a total mess.

(3) FALSE TEACHERS: He says a great deal about false teachers. They will come from among us. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies. Though they are destined for destruction, many will follow them and be exploited. They will be sensual, greedy, ungodly, unprincipled, unrighteous, despise authority, corrupt, self-willed, bold, without sensible fear, like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, ignorant, party all day long, enjoy lying while smiling at you, try to seduce married people, forsake the right way, enjoy ill gotten gain, and be the slaves of corruption. They will entice unstable souls having gone astray themselves, speaking arrogant words of vanity. All that being said, I think the most important thing to notice is that they will come from among us. We need to be on our guard.

(4) Second Peter Summary I think 2nd Peter is about living a holy life, being on guard against false teachers, and being ready for the return of Jesus Christ.

(5) Second Peter Life Application I think the most practical thing I learned from 2nd Peter is that the best protection from false doctrine is studying the Bible for yourself.

(6) Something to Remember My favorite is 2nd Peter 3:18 "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."