

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 25, 2009

Passage: 2 Peter 2:1-10a

Memory Passage: 2 Peter 2:9

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:1-3.** What were some characteristics of false prophets in the Old Testament according to Jeremiah 6:13, Zechariah 13:2, and Deuteronomy 13:1-5? What was the punishment for such prophets?

(b) Read the Deuteronomy 13:1-11. How serious does God take those who might influence us away from Him? In light of this, how seriously do you take those things that draw your focus away from the Lord? What are some of those things that draw your attention from God to other things or yourself or your own interests?

(c) Read 1 Kings 22:1-37. How did God use lying prophets to bring judgment on Jehoshaphat? How was the fact that this was a judgment emphasized through Micaiah's prophecy?

(d) What are some characteristics of false prophets in Matthew 7:15-23? How important is it that people bear fruit in relation to their faith?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:1-3 and Deuteronomy 13:1-11. Talk about the nature of false prophets in the Old Testament. What were they like? What did they try to do? How important is it for us to be careful what influences us? Who or what are some ways we are influenced? What should be our ultimate influence? Why? Read 2 Peter 1:3-4, and 1:19-21. Pray that God would give you discernment and strength to resist the influences of this world.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:1-3.** The term "heresies" is often used elsewhere in the New Testament as a reference to just a sect or group. (See Acts 15:5; 24:14). So, what are some of the descriptors that Peter uses to signify the negative nature of this school of thought?

(b) What are five ways that Peter identifies these false teachers? How do these compare with the ways that elders are described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7? Which traits pair up with each other?

(c) How does the end of verse 3 act as reassurance to Peter's audience? Why is it important to remember these things in the midst of such situations?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:1-3. What are the five ways that these false teachers are described? Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Why is it so important to have an elder who exhibits all of these qualities? What could you do to encourage your elders to faithfully walk according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7? Pray for your elders that they would be careful to guard themselves and that God would protect them.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:4-5 and Genesis 6:1-8.** How does 2 Peter 2:4-5 help us to understand what happened as a result of Genesis 6? What does verse 4 show us about the result of sinning against God in such a way as the angels did in Genesis 6?

(b) How does Genesis 6:1-8 end? Why do you think that this verse is a good one for us to reflect upon? In light of God's condemnation of evil, what is God able to do for Noah? How would this be encouraging to Peter's readers?

(c) Who are we supposed to link both the angels and the ancient world to? And who are we to be like?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:4-5 and Genesis 6:1-8. What comparison is Peter making between these stories and his audience? Who should we strive to be in the examples that Peter retells? How do these examples encourage us when we are surrounded by evil? Thank God that He is able to save you from evil influences though the trial might be great.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:6-8 and Genesis 19:1-17.** Why were Sodom and Gomorrah condemned to extinction (Genesis 18:16-21)? How are Sodom and Gomorrah to be an example of what will happen?

(b) What do they become an example of in the rest of the Bible (c. Isaiah 1:9-10; Jeremiah 23:14; Amos 4:11; Matthew 10:15; Luke 17:29)? Specifically in these New Testament passages, what comparison is drawn between Sodom and Gomorrah and the end times (Luke 17:29-35)?

(c) How is Lot a righteous man??? (Genesis 19:1-3) What biblical virtue does Lot express (1Peter 4:9)? How does this example reinforce the previous one?

(d) Can you identify with Lot's situation in life? How does Lot's action with regard to the angels serve as an example to us? What could you do to show hospitality in a society that promotes individualism as its highest honor? What could be a way that your home group or Sunday school group could show hospitality to those who do not know the Lord?

(e) *Family* Read 2 Peter 2:6-8 and Genesis 19:1-17. Talk about how Lot shows himself, although not perfect, a righteous man (Genesis 19:1-3; 1 Peter 4:9). How important a place does hospitality take in being a Christian? How is showing hospitality like what Christ has done for us? How could your family show hospitality to your neighbors or people who don't know the Lord? Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading in how you could show God's love through being hospitable.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:9-10a.** How do these verses summarize verses 4-8? How are we rescued from trials (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:14-18; Colossians 1:11-14)? How are trials used to produce positive results (Luke 22:28-30; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7)? What role do we have to play when faced with trials in order to experience fruit from it?

(b) There are two ways to translate the second phrase in verse 9. (See NIV, NASB, ESV, NKJV for one and NET, TNIV, KJV for the other; see www.biblegateway.com for these versions) What difference do these two translations make in the passage? In reading through verses 1-8, which way of reading the passage makes the most sense?

(c) The word “indulge” (ESV, NASB) simply means “to go after.” How do these verses portray Israel's going after other things (Deuteronomy 6:14; 28:13-15; 1 Kings 11:9-10)? What are the two idols talked about in verse 10a? How does our society deal with these two idols?

(d) While the term “desires” or “lust” often have a sexually immoral connotation, Peter isn't necessarily referring to just these types of desires. The important thing is to be careful to not have your desires control you. What are other things that could become controlling desires in your life?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:9-10a. Talk about the connection between verse 9 and the preceding examples. How should these verses encourage us in the middle of trials and hardships? Why is it reassuring that God not only will rescue us but will also bring justice? Talk about the two things that these two evil teachers follow after. How does our society view these things? Thank God that He has promised to rescue us in His perfect timing from trials.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read 2 Peter 2:1-10a. Do you think any of the false teachers started out wanting to be false teachers? What is it that leads people to become like them? Is there anything in your life that is pulling you away from the Lord? Greed, pride, an attitude of comfort in yourself, lusts? How does this passage reinforce the importance of the centrality of scripture in all our lives? Pray that the Lord would continue to renew your mind through the Bible by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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The Danger of Counterfeits

“The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials”