

Women of Grace

• Lesson 20 • 1-2 Peter, 1-2 John, Jude:
A Warning Against False Teachers •

Introduction

In these epistles written by Peter, John, and Jude, the authors strongly emphasize biblical doctrine as the foundation for practical living. Remembering this year's focus on the big picture of God's plan of redemption, this lesson highlights the following themes...

- Believers are encouraged to persevere in the midst of trials
- Believers are reminded of the sufficiency of Scripture
- The church is warned about the presence of false teachers

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week's verse is Ephesians 2:20...
"...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone..."

Day One

Read 1 Peter 1-2; ***The Cornerstone and the Believer's Endurance***

1. In 1 Peter 1:1-2, how did Peter identify the recipients of this letter, and what was his expectation of them?
2. From 1:6; 2:12 and 19; 3:9 and 13-14; 4:12, 16 and 19, what circumstances did these believers face?
3. According to verses 1 Peter 1:3-9, why could these believers in exile have hope in the midst of hardship and trials?
 - a. How does having a right perspective on eternity help believers in the midst of difficulties?
 - b. Are the difficulties you're facing this week resulting in praise and glory to God (v. 7)? Explain your answer.
4. From 1:13-21, how are believers to wait for the return of Christ? How does this help believers endure?

Day Two

Read Selected Texts in 1 Peter; ***Standing Firm in the Midst of Suffering***

Note: It is helpful to consider a connection between false teaching and the suffering of believers. Often, Christians desire relief from trials and can seek comfort in teaching that offers a quick resolution while rejecting teaching that focuses on the refinement of faith that comes from perseverance and endurance.

1. In verses 1:22-2:2, how did Peter describe the Word of God? How does that motivate you to study Scripture?

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- a. How does knowing Scripture help believers respond to suffering or errant instruction from false teachers?

- b. What specific plans will you make to maintain the spiritual discipline of Bible study in the weeks and months ahead?

2. In 2:6-8, Peter quoted from three Old Testament passages (Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 8:14) that prophesied of the coming cornerstone, Jesus Christ. What two contrasting responses to Christ are given?

3. From 1 Peter 1:6-9 and 13-16; 2:13-20; 3:14-17; and 4:1-2, how did Peter encourage believers in the midst of suffering?
 - a. Is this your response? Is there anything in your response that needs to change? Explain your answer.

4. In 5:6-11, how is God's character displayed? How does this give you courage in the midst of suffering?

Day Three

Read 2 Peter and Jude; **Condemnation of False Teachers**

1. In 2 Peter 1:16-21, why do you think Peter set forth the authority of God's Word before he exposed and condemned false teachers? Find two or three other passages in the Bible that emphasize its authority.

2. According to 2 Peter 2:1-3 and Jude 4, from where do the false teachers arise, and what is their method for spreading false doctrine?
 - a. From 2 Peter 2:10-22 and Jude 10-13, summarize briefly Peter's and Jude's description of false teachers.

3. From the following verses in 2 Peter 3, what past and future realities did Peter affirm to refute the false teachers?

5-6	
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8-9	
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11-12	

Day Four

Read 1 John; *Overcoming the World*

1. From 1 John, use the following passages to identify the beliefs that undergird specific practical behavior.

John's reason for writing	How that purpose was accomplished	What practical steps can you take to grow?
1 John 1:4	1 John 1:1-3	
1 John 2:1	1 John 2:5-6, 15; 3:3	
1 John 5:13	1 John 3:9-10, 18-19; 5:1-4	

2. What connection is there between 1 John 2:21-23 and 5:5-8 and evangelism, or conversations with those who hold different religious beliefs?
3. According to 1 John 3:16-18 and 4:19-21, how is Christian love described? How does that differ from the love of the world?
 - a. How does *your* love of God and the brethren align with John's description? How can you grow in your love for God and His people?
4. Consider a time you were tempted to doubt your value or were struggling with loneliness or insecurity. How would meditating on 1 John 3:1, 16 and 24; and 4:4 and 9-10 encourage you?

Day Five

Read 2 John and 3 John; *The Outworking of Truth and Love*

1. From the introductions to John's epistles in 2 John 1-4 and 3 John 1-4, what word is repeated, and what does that reveal about John's purpose in writing these books?

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- a. How do you think the world today views the concept of truth? How do John's opening verses refute the world's skepticism regarding absolute truth?

2. According to 2 John 1:1-5, what part does truth play in the believer's life?

3. One overall theme of John's epistles focuses on returning to the fundamentals of Christianity. What have you found particularly encouraging or convicting in these books, and what change in your life do you desire to make as a result of your study?