



2 Peter

A 9-WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES

By Lisa Hughes

Welcome

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

Nothing could be more true! There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig in to the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

Scripture Paths Bible Studies are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES*:

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.

6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming at. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger.

~Charles Spurgeon

THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE STUDY

John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and for anyone else who wants to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is utilizing those truths to your life.

As you study this book of the Bible it is my prayer that you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as the source of life and godliness, and you will accept it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom, knowledge, godly conduct, that you overcome sin and grow daily in your love for Christ.

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
Lisa Hughes*

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. I explain how to use those resources in an Addendum at the end of the study. These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig in to each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him.

And what could be better than that?

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.
 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.
 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.
 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.
 Psalm 119:129-133

How to Do a Chapter Observation¹

Begin with prayer, asking God to show you how His Word fits together. Ask Him to reveal the gems of His Word as you approach it. Pray for a clear mind and the ability to see the truths in His Word.

1. Read straight through the chapter using the *Bible Text Handout*. This will show you the flow of the chapter. *Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears.* This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Mark *repeated* words or phrases. Mark any other words that seem *important* to the chapter or are strongly *emphasized*.
2. Next, *list* the phrase containing the key words on a separate sheet of paper. *This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words.* Be sure to *cite* the verse references when you list your key word information. For example, in James chapter 1, with *God* as your key word you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned in James. For Chapter 1, it would start with a list like this: Vs. 1—James, a bond-servant of God or God has bond-servants Vs. 5—ask God for wisdom. Vs. 5—God gives wisdom generously, without reproach.
3. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.
4. Now, list them on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.
5. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find these words or phrases.
6. Mark *contrasting* words: light/dark, love/hate; the word “but.” Look for phrases or thoughts that are being contrasted.
7. Now list what you discovered from the comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using or at the side or bottom of the *Bible Text Handout*.

¹ This process for Bible study originated from the Precept Inductive Bible Studies method. Through the years, other people have adapted it or come up with similar methods on their own, just as I have for my studies. The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor, as we stop, observe, and consider every one of His recorded Words, in their context, during Bible study.

8. Mark *transition* terms: *therefore, for, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms.
9. Mark expressions of *time*. Look for words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
10. Look for *lists* of words, phrases, or related thoughts. Number the lists within the Bible text, then record your list out to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. This will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in James 1:5-6 we find a list about how God responds when we ask him for wisdom. We discover 1) He gives wisdom generously; 2) He gives wisdom without reproach; 3) He desires that we ask in faith, without doubting. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in this chapter. You aren't making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this stage is to look for the treasures that God has put in the chapter.

How To Do a Word Study

There's a couple ways you can do this. You can do your Bible word study using the internet or a Bible program like Logos. There are quite a few good Bible study websites available on the internet like www.net.bible.org; www.blueletterbible.org; www.biblestudytools.com; or www.biblegateway.com. Each site is set up a little different but you should find a section on "word studies" for each of them.

Or you can do your Bible word study in the time-honored tradition of using books! Below you'll find a step-by-step guide in how to do a word study from the Bible.

Starting with the basics

You will need an *Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* [Strong's or Holman's] that matches the Bible you study out of – like NASB or KJV. Then you will need *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*.

Now what?

1. In the main part of the Concordance find the word you wish to define. Example: *consider* from Hebrews 3:1.
2. Write down the number assigned to it. You will need this number for the dictionary. In our example *consider* from Hebrews 3:1 is Greek word #2657.
3. Now flip to the back of the Concordance. This section of the concordance is divided into Hebrew words from the Old Testament and Greek words from the New Testament. You will need to make sure you are in the Greek section so you can find #2657. Once you locate the right number then you can see the Greek spelling of the word as well as the English transliteration of the word. You will need to write down the English transliteration of the word [for our example it is *katanoeo*. You will also find a short definition of the word here in the concordance.

2657 κατανοέω [*katanoeo* /kat·an·o·eh·o/] v. From 2596 and 3539; **TDNT** 4:973; **TDNTA** 636; **GK** 2917; 14 occurrences; **AV** translates as "consider" seven times, "behold" four times, "perceive" twice, and "discover" once. 1 to perceive, remark, observe, understand. 2 to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon.

4. Now you are ready to look up your word in *Vine's Dictionary of Biblical Words*. Make sure you are in the Greek section if you are looking up New Testament words or the Hebrew section if you are looking up Old Testament words. Go to the back of the dictionary and look up your word using the English transliteration of the word, in our example it is *katanoeo*. This step will show you the different English words the Greek word has been translated into. For example: *katanoeo* has been translated into *behold*, *consider*, *discover*, or *perceive*.

5. Now, look up the English version of the word. In our example we look up *consider*. Find the right definition for the word by checking the English transliteration and the Strong's number assigned to it. Check to make sure that the Greek number is the same and then read away. Remember, that context is what gives a word its meaning and variation of meaning. The dictionary will supply you with all the meanings and translations of the word and how it is used differently in different verses.

CONSIDER [from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words]

1. *eidon* (Aor. of ὀράω, 3708), used as the aorist tense of *horaō*, "to see," is translated "to consider" in [Acts 15:6](#), of the gathering of the apostles and elders regarding the question of circumcision in relation to the gospel.

2. *suneidon* (συνειδῶ, 4894), *sun*, with, and No. 1, used as the aorist tense of *sunoraō*, to see with one view, to be aware, conscious, as the result of mental perception, is translated "considered" in [Acts 12:12](#), of Peter's consideration of the circumstances of his deliverance from. See KNOW, PRIVY.

3. *katamanthano* (καταμανθάνω, 2648), lit., "to learn thoroughly" (*kata*, "down," intensive, *manthano*, "to learn"), hence, "to note accurately, consider well," is used in the Lord's exhortation to "consider" the lilies. [Matt. 6:28](#).¶

4. *noeo* (νοιέω, 3539), "to perceive with the mind" (*nous*), "think about, ponder," is translated "consider," only in Paul's exhortation to Timothy in [2 Tim. 2:7](#). See PERCEIVE, THINK, UNDERSTAND.

5. *katanoeō* (κατανοέω, 2657), "to perceive clearly" (*kata*, intensive, and No. 4), "to understand fully, consider closely," is used of not "considering" thoroughly the beam in one's own eye, [Matt. 7:3](#) and [Luke 6:41](#) (KJV, "perceivest"); of carefully "considering" the ravens, [Luke 12:24](#); the lilies, v. 27; of Peter's full "consideration" of his vision, [Acts 11:6](#); of Abraham's careful "consideration" of his own body, and Sarah's womb, as dead, and yet accepting by faith God's promise, [Rom. 4:19](#) (RV); of "considering" fully the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, [Heb. 3:1](#); of thoughtfully "considering" one another to provoke unto love and good works, [Heb. 10:24](#). It is translated by the verbs "behold," [Acts 7:31-32](#); [Jas. 1:23-24](#); "perceive," [Luke 20:23](#); "discover," [Acts 27:39](#). See BEHOLD, DISCOVER, PERCEIVE.¶

6. *logizomai* (λογίζομαι, 3049) signifies "to take account of," [2 Cor. 10:7](#) (RV, "consider," KJV, "think"), the only place where the RV translates it "consider." See ACCOUNT.

Companion Volumes

Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament. This is arranged by book and moves through the text explaining and defining key words along the way.

Wuest's Word Studies in the Greek New Testament. Wuest died before he finished all the New Testament, but what is completed is a treasure for word studies. This is arranged in the same way as Vincent's book is arranged.

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Lesson #1, Book Overview

Using only the text of 2 Peter, try to answer the following questions. Be sure to cite the Scripture references which show where you found your answer. At this point in the lesson, you may not be able to answer every question using only your Bible. You will have an opportunity at the end of this lesson to complete your answers using other Bible study sources.

1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom is it written?
3. When was the book written?
4. Where was it written?
5. What is the general tone of the author in the book?
6. What is the author's purpose in writing this book?
7. What topics are included in this book?

8. What are the key words of the book? Key words are words that are repeated or carry an important thought.

9. What are the main themes of the book? A theme is the main idea, the overall message.

10. What attributes about God do you see in this book?

11. What attributes about Christ do you find in this book?

Now go back and answer the above questions using a Bible dictionary or Bible commentary to add details to your answers above.

12. What insights have you gained thus far in your study of 2 Peter?

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about *God's promises* in verses 2-11? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.

8. What do you learn about the *Scriptures* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. Compare what you learn from verses 8-9 about the "qualities" discussed.

There's more observations to be found to this chapter than what I've asked you here. If you're eager for more, try looking for and noting:

- *References to time*
- *Repeated words*
- *Transition words like "for," "therefore," "so," "finally."*
- *Commands*
- *Comparisons*
- *Contrasts*
- *Lists of words, phrases or related thoughts*

10. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

2 Peter Chapter 1

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,

6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,

7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.

13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,

14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—

18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter

Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-11

Read through Chapter 1 before beginning this lesson. Beseech the Lord for His help and insight before you dive into the lesson.

1. Peter identifies himself as both a *bond-servant* and *apostle* of Jesus Christ in verse 1. Look up Ex. 21:1-6; Matt. 8:9; Mk. 10:44; and Luke 17:10 to define *bond-servant*. Now turn to Rom. 1:1 and Titus 1:1 to see how Paul describes an *apostle*. Record your findings.
2. What do you learn about those Peter is writing to in verse 1? Now look at 3:1. What do you learn? Compare and contrast Peter's description of his readers in 2 Pet. 1:1 with 1 Pet. 1:1-2.
3. What blessings does Peter desire to be abundantly given to his readers according to verse 2? Where do those blessings come from (verse 2)?
4. What has His divine power granted to us (verse 3)? What means does He use to grant those things to us according to verse 3?
5. Review verses 2 and 3. What things are given to us through a true knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord? How do you gain a true knowledge of God and of Christ? See Prov. 2:1-5; Matt. 7:20-23; Jn. 17:3; 1 Cor. 1:21; Gal. 4:8-9; 1 Jn. 2:1-6.

6. What does that little word *everything* in verse 3 imply, especially when applied to your life? All of us have areas in our lives that don't reflect the truths found in verse 3. What do you think would change in your life if you began to live with a real understanding that God's divine power was aiding you to live for Christ in every area?

7. How were we called (verse 3)?

8. What things have been granted to us by God's glory and excellence (His goodness) according to verse 4? For what purpose (verse 5)?

9. What does it mean to become partakers of the divine nature? See Jn. 1:12-13; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:23-24; Col. 3:10; 1 Jn. 3:2.

10. Define the *italicized* words from verses 5-7 in the chart below.

Because you have been given everything you need to live this life in godliness, been given the promises of God, and because you have escaped sin's power over you, then		
applying all <i>diligence</i> ,	in your faith <i>supply</i>	<i>moral excellence</i> ,

<i>knowledge,</i>	<i>self-control,</i>	<i>perseverance,</i>
<i>godliness,</i>	<i>brotherly kindness,</i>	<i>love.</i>

11. What observations can you make about the construction of the sentence in verses 5-7 *and* what Peter wants you to understand about the Christian life?

12. What further information does Peter give us about godliness in verse 8?

13. If those qualities are not yours, and they are not increasing in your life, what does that say about you according to verse 8? Now see Matt. 7:15-20; Jn. 15:1-8; and Rom. 7:4. What do those verses tell you about being fruitful?

14. Peter further explains what kind of person would be lacking the godly characteristics of verses 5-7. What do you learn about that person (verse 9)?

15. How would remembering that you have been cleansed from your sins be a remedy for spiritual short-sightedness?

16. Peter begins verse 10 with *therefore*. Explain what Peter's train of thought is from the previous verses as he moves into verse 10.

17. How can you tell if you are *called* and *chosen* by God according to verses 4-10? See also 2 Cor. 13:5.

18. Why won't you stumble if you *practice* these things? See Ps. 37:24; Jn. 10:28-29; Rom. 8:38-39; 1 Cor. 1:8; Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:5; 2 Pet. 1:3, 8.

19. If you are faithful to apply all diligence to your faith which was granted to you by God and to persevere in the Christian life, what will the end result be (verse 11)? See Jude 24 for an illustration of this truth.

20. Peter is not alone in telling us to be diligent in our walks. Look up the following verses about Christian growth. What do you learn? See 1 Cor. 15:10; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:1.

21. Peter urges us to continue to grow, to continue to persevere, to show fruit, and to be useful for the kingdom of God. These verses exhort us to examine our lives, to chop away at sin and strengthen weak areas, to excel still more. *Are you?* Are these qualities yours and are they increasing in your life?

May every heart confess Thy name,
And ever Thee adore,
And, seeking Thee, itself inflame
To seek Thee more and more.
~unknown hymn

Since first Thy word awaked my heart,
like new life dawning o'er me,
where e'er I turned mine eyes Thou art,
all light and love before me,
naught else I feel or hear or see,
all bonds of earth I sever,
Thee O God, and only Thee,
I live for now and ever!

Like him whose fetters dropped away,
when light shone o'er his prison,
my spirit touched by mercy's rays,
hath from her chains arisen,
and shall a soul Thou bidst be free,
return to bondage? Never!
Thee O God, and only Thee,
I live for now and ever!
~Thomas Moore

2 Peter

Lesson #4, Chapter 1:12-21

Read through Chapter 1 before beginning this lesson. Don't miss out on asking the Lord for His help as you study His Word.

1. What is Peter ready to remind his readers?
2. Even though Peter feels it is necessary to remind the believers of spiritual truths, what observations does he make about those to whom he's writing (verse 12)?
3. Peter makes an even stronger statement about the ministry of reminding in verse 13. From verse 13, what is his goal in reminding believers of the biblical truths of verses 1-11?
4. Why does Peter feel such urgency to keep reminding his readers of biblical truths (verses 13-14)?
5. What had Jesus told Peter about his death? See Jn. 13:36; 21:18-19.
6. What ministry goal does Peter reveal in verse 15? Based on verses 1-15, how does Peter plan to accomplish that goal?

7. Peter had a plan for building into those he ministered to. What about you? Do you have ministry goals for those the Lord has brought into your sphere of influence? If so, what are they and how do you plan to accomplish those goals? If not, start now by thinking of one person in your life and consider how you can encourage them to grow spiritually.

8. In verse 16 Peter hints at one of the reasons he has been so diligent in reminding his flock about the truth of God. What do you see?

9. What lends credibility to Peter's message (verses 16-18)?

10. What episode is Peter referring to in verses 16-19? Read Matt. 17:1-9 and describe the scene.

11. Immediately after relating his experience, Peter makes a surprising statement in verse 19. What is it?

12. Peter is not discounting his experience with Christ up on the mountain; he relates it to make a point. What is his purpose in referring to it here (verse 19)?

13. What is the *prophetic word* compared to? See Ps. 119:105; Prov. 6:23.

d. Jer. 23:28-32.

e. Luke 1:70.

f. Acts 3:18.

g. 2 Tim. 3:16.

h. Heb. 3:7 cf. Ps. 95:7.

19. In verse 21 Peter describes men *moved* by the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 27:15 where the same Greek word is used. How does that help you understand what Peter is describing in verse 21?
20. Why are verses 20-21 meant to be an encouragement to us? How do they encourage *you*?
21. Summarize what Peter is trying to communicate to his beloved flock in verses 12-21.

22. What principles can we gain here from Peter about ministry, Christian life, and service until we depart from this life (verses 12-21)?

We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God,
because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.
John Calvin

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about *false teachers* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.

8. There are some very interesting comments about *angels* in this chapter. What do you learn about them? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. List what you learn about those whom the Lord *rescues, spares, preserves* in this chapter. Be sure to cite the verse references.

10. List your observations about Peter's references to different kinds of *weather* or *natural phenomenon* and *animals*. Don't forget to list the verse references as well; this keeps us looking in the text to support everything we say.

There's more observations to be found to this chapter than what I've asked you here. If you're eager for more, try looking for and noting:

- *References to time*
- *Repeated words*
- *Transition words like "for," "therefore," "so," "finally."*
- *Commands*
- *Comparisons*
- *Contrasts*
- *Lists of words, phrases or related thoughts*

11. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

2 Peter Chapter 2

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter;

7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),

9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you,

14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

16 but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, for a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.

17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

18 For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,

19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.”

2 Peter

Lesson #6, Chapter 2:1-22

Read through Chapter 2 before beginning this lesson. This lesson contains valuable truths we'll all need to apply at some point in our lives. May we gain wisdom and discernment as we study!

1. Chapter 2 verse 1 begins with the contrasting word *but*. What contrast is Peter making with his statements at the end of Chapter 1?
2. From verses 1-3, what are the characteristics of false teachers? What are the consequences of the false teachers' views?
3. In verse 1 Peter refers to the false prophets that plagued the Israelites. How were the Israelites to deal with false prophets? See Deut. 13 and 18:18-22.
4. Why do false teachers introduce their destructive heresies *secretly*? See also Jn. 3:20-21 and 1 Jn. 1:5-7. Who do false teachers want to keep their teachings a secret from?
5. Peter says that the false teachers will introduce destructive heresies in which they will even deny Christ. What do the Scriptures say about someone who denies Christ? See Matt. 10:33; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Titus 1:16; 1 Jn. 2:19, 22; Jude 4.

6. Based on what you have discovered in questions 3-6, what is the false teacher's spiritual state Peter described in these verses?

7. Look back at verse 1. Where will you *find* false teachers? Why is it so important to understand the false teacher's true spiritual state though they may *claim* to know Christ as their Savior? See also 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Titus 1:16.

8. What examples of *punishment* are given in verses 4-9? What examples of *preservation* are given in verses 4-9?

9. Why does Peter take the time to give examples of punishment and preservation in verses 4-9? What point is he trying to make to his readers? How is that encouraging for *you*?

10. What further characteristics of a false teacher are introduced in verses 10-11? How does Peter's example about the angels show the false teachers' rebellion?

11. List the characteristics of a false teacher from verses 12-22.

12. Peter compares false teachers to unreasoning animals in verses 12-13. Please explain the comparison between the two. Jude 10 and Phil. 3:18-19 will help you with your answer.

13. In verse 15 Peter refers to *Balaam* to give added insight into the motives of the false teachers. Who was Balaam and what role did he play in Israel's history? See Num. 22-24; 25:1-3 and 31:8, 16.

14. How are false teachers like Balaam?

15. Verses 17-19 provide another insightful look at the false teachers. What succinct statement in verse 19 does Peter make that sums up their lives? How would remembering that truth help you avoid being deceived by a false teacher?

16. Verses 20-21 provide an accurate picture of an *apostate*. "Apostates," John MacArthur explains in his commentary, "are those who move toward Christ, hear and understand His gospel, and are on the verge of saving belief, but then rebel and turn away." Why is the last state worse than the first for an apostate? Why would it have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness? See verses 20-21 and Heb. 6:4-8; 10:26-27; 1 Jn. 2:19.

17. How do the proverbs of the dog and sow in verse 22 illustrate the false teachers' lives?

18. Why does Peter spend 22 verses in Chapter 2 teaching on false teachers and their threat to the church? See also 1:14.

19. Read the book of Jude and list any similarities it has with 2 Peter 2. Also list any new information you may glean about false teachers from Jude in a separate list.

20. If a leader begins to be *characterized* by one or more of these qualities what should you do? See Matt. 18:15-20; Gal. 2:11-14; Eph. 5:11-12; 1 Tim. 5:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Jn. 4:1-3.

21. It is clear from this chapter that true believers can be led astray by a false teacher. With so much at stake, what principles from this chapter have you learned that will help guard you against a false teacher?

There is difference betwixt error, schism, and heresy. Error is when one holds a strong opinion alone; schism, when many consent in their opinion; heresy runs further, and contends to root out the truth. Error offends, but separates not; schism offends and separates; heresy offends, separates, and rageth. Error is weak, schism is strong, heresy obstinate. Error goes out, and often comes in again; schism comes not in, but makes a new church; heresy makes not a new church, but no church. Error is reprov'd and pitied, schism is reprov'd and punished,

heresy is reproved and excommunicated. Schism is in the same faith, heresy makes another faith. Though they be thus distinguished, yet without God's preventing grace, one will run into another. ~Thomas Adams

O soul, if you are longing for Christ you will know when He is near you, even as the thirsting harts [deer] of the desert scent the waters from afar. If you have an intense hunger after the Lord Jesus you will not need to be told which is bread; you will not be deceived by a stone, for your hunger will instruct you. In this case an instinct springs out of an appetite, discernment grows out of desire: if you long for Christ you will not readily be deceived by false teachers, for you will know what your soul craves after, and will not be content with anything else. ~Charles Spurgeon

2 Peter Lesson #7, Chapter 3 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 3 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-2).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 3-7).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 8-10).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 11-13).
 - e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 14-18).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about *mockers* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references that support your observations.

8. There are some very interesting comments about *the Day of the Lord* in this chapter. What do you learn about that unique day? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. List the different *people* referenced in this chapter. Be sure to note the verse where you found your answer.

There's more observations to be found to this chapter than what I've asked you here. If you're eager for more, try looking for and noting:

- *References to time*
- *Repeated words*
- *Transition words like "for," "therefore," "so," "finally."*
- *Commands*
- *Comparisons*
- *Contrasts*
- *Lists of words, phrases or related thoughts*

10. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

2 Peter Chapter 3

1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,

6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

9 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.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

18 but 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.

2 Peter

Lesson #8, Chapter 3:1-10

Read through Chapter 3 before beginning this lesson. Be sure to ask the Lord to open your eyes and heart to the truths of His Word.

1. What does Peter want to accomplish in his second letter to his flock (verse 1)? How does he hope to achieve this according to verse 1?
2. Define *stir* (NIV *stimulate* [Strong's #1326]) used also by Peter in 1:13.
3. Define *sincere* (KJV *pure*; NIV *wholesome* [Strong's #1506]) used only here and in Phil. 1:10.
4. How is Peter's word choice in describing the believer's minds as *sincere* in stark contrast to the description of the false teachers from Chapter 2?
5. Why does Peter want to *stir up their minds* (verse 2)? Why would that be a help and an encouragement to the believers?
6. What is the first thing they are to know from verse 3?

7. What are the mockers scoffing at (verses 3-4)?

8. What type of conversation do you think preceded the scoffer's jeering response?

9. There have always been those who say, "Life has always been this way. There won't be a time of judgment to come." What is God's answer in verses 5-7 to those who say things like that?

10. What do you learn about the *Word of God* in verses 5-7? Now look up the following verses to build upon that foundation of truth: Gen. 1:6, 9; 6:17; 9:11-15; Ps. 33:6; Heb. 11:3; 1 Pet. 1:23-25.

11. Just as God warned the world of Noah's time of the impending flood, so God has warned us about the judgment to come upon our present world. What do you learn about the coming judgment from the following verses? See 2 Pet. 3:7, 10-12; Is. 66:15-16; Mal. 4:1; Matt. 3:12; 2 Thess. 1:7-8; Heb. 10:27.

12. What one fact are we to make sure we notice (verse 8)?

13. In verse 9 Peter reveals the significance of his statement in verse 8. What do you learn in verse 9?

14. How do verses 8-9 provide an answer to those who say that they do not fear the future and judgment is not coming?

15. What is one of the purposes of God's patience? Verses 9, 15; Joel 2:13; Rom. 9:22-24.

16. Verse 9 reads, *The Lord is not slow about His promise*. What promise is Peter referring to?

17. List what you learn about *the Day of the Lord* from verse 10.

18. Now read Is. 13:6-13; Zeph. 1:14-18; 1 Thess. 5:2-11; 2 Thess. 1:5-10; 2:1-4. What is the purpose of the Day of the Lord? When will the Day of the Lord occur? How is the Day of the Lord described?

19. How have these verses equipped you to give an answer for the hope that is within you (1 Pet. 3:15)?

20. What attributes of God are displayed in 3:1-10?

21. How have the truths you have learned about God in these verses made you love and respect Him even more?

He has but to speak the word, and the servants of His Omnipotence will rise, terrible in their destructive power. He spoke to His ancients of the sea, and they marched in gigantic might till they had covered the mountain tops, and laid the race of men dead at their feet; let Him speak to His ministers of flaming fire and they will at once subdue the globe by quenchless burnings. Earth is as a pile of wood, and the torch-bearers stand ready to kindle it at any moment. There has always been a cry of fire among men, and the cry grows louder every century, for the burning is near. ~Charles Spurgeon

God waiteth that men may be saved. He tarries that, in this long time of waiting, hundreds everywhere may believe in Jesus, and enter into eternal life; and while we may consistently desire to hasten the coming of the Lord, we may be equally content that mercy's day should be lengthened. ~Charles Spurgeon

2 Peter

Lesson #9, Chapter 3:11-18

Read through Chapter 3 before beginning this lesson. Be sure to ask the Lord for help in studying and applying this lesson.

1. For review, summarize the contents of 3:1-10.
2. How is your life to be different because of the coming Day of the Lord according to verses 11-12?
3. How is that in direct contrast to the scoffing unbelievers of verses 3-7?
4. D. A. Carson in *The New Bible Commentary* observes that “Jesus (Luke 12:35-40), Paul (Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:3-11), and Peter (1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7-11) all use the last judgment as an incentive to godly living.” Look up the verses D. A. Carson has listed and note the effect the coming day of the Lord is to have upon your life.

Robert Jamieson and A.R. Faussett in their critical commentary succinctly explain how we can hasten the day of God. “The Greek may mean “hastening (that is, urging onward [Alford]) the day of God” not that God’s eternal appointment of the time is changeable, but God appoints us as instruments of accomplishing those events which must be first before the day of God can come. By praying for His coming, furthering the preaching of the Gospel for a

- witness to all nations, and bringing in those whom “the long-suffering of God” waits to save, we hasten the coming of the day of God. Our part is to speed forward this consummation by praying, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev 22:20).”
5. Verse 13 reveals the reason we look for and hasten the coming of the Day of the Lord, what is it?

 6. What do you learn about the new heavens and new earth? See verse 13; Is. 60:19-22; Rev. 21:1-7.

 7. Review verses 11-13 and complete the following statements:
 - a. The earth is:

 - b. I am to be:

 - c. God will:

 - d. These truths encourage me to:

 8. Since the beloved flock are to look forward to the coming of the Day of the Lord when Christ will be revealed as King over all the earth, what does Peter urge them to do in verses 14-15?

9. Explain what Peter means when he says that they are to regard the patience of the Lord to be salvation in verse 15.

10. Peter supports what he has been saying about the Day of the Lord by referring to Paul who would have already been martyred by this time, but whose letters would have been circulated among the churches. How does Peter regard Paul (verse 15)? What do you learn about Paul's letters from verses 15-16?

11. Define *untaught* (ESV, NIV *ignorant* [Strong's #261]), *unstable* [Strong's #793], and *distort* (ESV, NKJV *twist* [Strong's #4761]) from verse 16.

12. How can you protect yourself from false teaching according to verses 17-18?

13. What will happen to you if you are carried away by false teaching? See verse 17; Eph. 4:14; 1Tim. 1:19; 2 Tim. 2:14-18; 2 Pet. 2:18-20.

14. What does it mean to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Christ? See 2 Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:17; Phil. 3:8-11; Col. 1:10; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:2-3.

15. After studying this book, do you think that Peter thought the Day of the Lord was close at hand? Why or why not?

- a. What about you? After studying this book, do you think the Day of the Lord is close at hand? Why or why not?

16. In light of what we've learned in this chapter, what sort of woman ought we to be?

17. What truth or encouragement stands out to you from Chapter 1? Chapter 2? Chapter 3?

18. What have you learned about the character of God from this book?

19. List one or two things that you intend to apply in your life as a result of studying this book.

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