



Sermon Discussion Guide
Here in the In-Between 2: Focus Your Commitment
Sunday, July 26, 2020
Based on Pastor Jason's Sermon

Introduction

In our last series we went through 1 Peter which is all about guiding us through the “in between” seasons in our lives. For us, we’re in a time when we’re waiting for things to get back to normal, but we’re still in this in between season of quarantine and overall oddness. How do we navigate these times well? This week, we’re starting a new series but looking at Peter’s second letter, 2 Peter, and continuing our dialogue. In this first study of 2 Peter we learn that we can take our faith to the next level during this season.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/sermons

Share Your Story

1. Think of a time when you waited an unbearably long time for something. What's one positive lesson that you learned from that time of waiting?
2. How do you combat negative thoughts that want to creep in when you're waiting for something longer than you previously anticipated?

Hear God's Story

1. Read 2 Peter 1:1-21 straight through. As you read, ask yourself “What's Peter saying here?” Then share: How would you summarize the theme of this first chapter of this letter in one sentence?
2. Now, go back to 2 Peter 1:5-7 and identify the seven areas Peter encourages us to grow our faith in. What's the one area you can grow the most in, and why?
3. Re-read 2 Peter 1:16-19. To put what Peter says here in perspective, read Peter's “eyewitness of Jesus' majesty” in Mark 9:1-8. What can these two passages reveal to us about seeking God for ourselves? Next, why is this all the more important to do in today's cultural climate of fear, anger, depression, etc?

Create a New Story

1. What's one action step you're going to take this week to better internalize what we've been talking about and actually live it out?
2. What do you foresee as a relevant obstacle to that, and how do you plan to combat it?

Further Studies: A Lavished Spiritual Life

“...make every effort to *supplement your faith* with...” -2 Peter 1:5

The word we translate as “supplement” in the original ancient Greek was ἐπιχορηγέω (sounds like *epichorēgeō*). Putting this word in its original ancient contextual usage gives us a glimpse into how the original readers would have read Peter’s challenge here. He could have used a few different Greek words for “supplement,” but he strategically used this one to drive his point home. Read how one scholar frames it, then move onto the questions below:

“*Epichorēgeō* ... has a vivid history. In the great days of ancient Athens, the plays of the dramatists like Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides required large and costly choruses. But when such a play was put on, some wealthy public-spirited Athenian defrayed the vast outlay on the chorus - and consequently was known as the *choregos*. The noble productions were extravagantly expensive, but the *choregoi* (plural form) vied with each other in their generosity. So *epichorēgeō* is far richer a term than the somewhat colorless “add” [or “support”] of many English translations of this verse.

Believers, Peter is saying, must be lavish in the time and effort they put into developing their Christian lives - not being satisfied with getting by on the minimum, but striving like the *choregos* of old to achieve the finest and most attractive production. The Christian is duty-bound, or rather love-bound, to offer the world the best possible advertisement of what God’s grace can do.”

- Norman Hillyer, *1 and 2 Peter, Jude* (NIBC; Peabody MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1992) 164-65

DISCUSS

1. Take a glance again at 2 Peter 1:5-7. Taking into account the cultural and normative usage of this word in ancient theatre productions, how can this inform our understanding of what Peter is saying here about the Christian life?
2. Norman Hillyer says these contributors to the larger production weren’t “satisfied with getting by on the minimum.” What competing thoughts do you wrestle with that contribute to you having days settling for the spiritual minimum?
3. What would making your personal spiritual life “lavish” look like?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com