

Watch Out!
Growth Group Discussion
2 Peter 2

Intro questions

- If your growth group is a new one—or if you have new members—take some time to get to know one another. What has your prior growth group experience been like? What motivated you to be part of this group?
- For established groups: when you hear the following phrase, what’s the first thing that comes to mind? The phrase: “*Watch out for false teaching!*”

1. Read 2 Peter 2:1-3, then discuss the following.

- In these verses, Peter summarizes the warning he is giving to his readers, including us. What is your initial reaction to these words? Does it raise particular emotions or questions for you?
- Pastor Josh summarized this warning as follows: ***we must guard the purity of what we believe.*** Do you think that summary captures Peter’s thought? Why or why not?
- What comes to mind when you think of “heresies?”
 - Are you familiar with any heresies that may have been circulating in Peter’s day?

2. Read 2 Peter 2:4-10a, then discuss the following.

- The main point of this section is found in v. 9. How would you summarize that point? Why does it matter for Peter’s overall purpose here?
 - Does this verse give you more encouragement or concern? Why?
- In vv. 4-8, Peter gives four examples from the Old Testament to support this point. Do your best to recount the details of each example, using footnotes or things you remember from your own reading. How does each one serve Peter’s argument?
 - What questions are raised by these examples?

3. Read 2 Peter 2:13-16, then discuss the following.

- We don’t know much about the specific false teachers Peter has in mind. But in these verses, we learn a few things about them. What can you say about them based on these verses?
- Does this description give us any help in identifying false teachers (or false teaching) *today*? How?
- What particular false teachers or false teachings do you think are a danger for us currently? Why do they have a strong appeal?

4. Read 2 Peter 2:17-22, then discuss the following.

- In v. 17, Peter points out one reason that false teaching is dangerous: it cannot deliver what it promises. Can you think of any specific examples where this is true? Have you, in your own experience, discovered this truth the hard way?
- According to the end of v. 18, what is especially egregious about the false teachers? In what way does this speak a word of caution to us?
- What effect do vv. 20-21 have on you? Do they challenge? Perplex? Encourage? Please elaborate.

5. Read 2 Peter 3:17-18, then discuss the following.

- We have to venture into the next chapter to see the positive action required by Peter's warning. How would you describe it in your own words?
- In your life, what has it looked like to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus?
- How does this kind of growth lessen the allure of false teaching?
- How are you hoping that our group can help you grow in this way?

6. Prayer

- Take some time to share and pray about whatever needs and concerns are weighing on your minds. If any particular challenges arose in the Bible Study, include those in your prayers.