

Life Group Discussion Guide

Introduction:

Let's call this section "The Conduct and Condemnation of False Teachers." Also, continue using "The Moody Bible Commentary" for your preparation for this week's lesson. Between the commentary, your own study, and the section title, you should have a good understanding of the trajectory of this passage as you lead your group in discussion.

Have you ever read a book or listened to a song that claims to be Christian but actually states something heretical and false? What did you do once you read/listened to it? Why is your response/action important?

Are teachers the only ones that should speak true things about the Christian faith? Or are all Christians expected to speak truthfully about doctrine, life, and faith? If it does apply to all Christians, how does one ensure not speaking falsely?

Head:

- Peter, in verses 10b-11, states that the false teachers are "bold" and "willful." In other translations the words are arrogant, proud, self-willed, reckless, and presumptuous. What do these words teach us about the character and motivation of false teachers? How do these words contrast what a true biblical teacher should look like? How do you know how a true teacher of the faith should behave (where in Scripture can you point to)?

- Why does it seem (based on verse 12) that these false teachers continue to teach and proclaim blasphemy? What exactly is blasphemy? Why is it important to note the difference between blasphemy and truth (use whatever scriptural evidence you would like to answer this question)?

- Thomas Constable states "The false teachers sinned without restraint. Furthermore they lured people not firmly committed to Jesus Christ to join them..." Verses 14-15 help you to understand his quote. How did these false teachers sin without restraint? In what ways did these false teachers lure people? What false teachings seek to lure people today?

- Peter compares these false teachers to Balaam. What do you recall of Balaam's story? And how are the two (Balaam and false teachers) comparable? (for a refresher, skim or read Numbers 22-24)

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- What does Peter mean when he calls these false teachers "waterless springs" and "mists driven by a storm" (leaders, refer to page 1970 in the Moody Bible Commentary for help with this question)?

- Warren Wiersbe states "The average person does not know how to listen to and analyze the kind of propaganda that pours out of the mouths and printing presses of the apostates. Many people cannot tell the difference between a religious huckster and a sincere servant of Jesus Christ." Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why? How were early Christians supposed to know the difference between truth and "propaganda"? How are we supposed to know the difference?

- The final three verses of this chapter speak to the condemnation of these false teachers. Constable comments "Peter compared the false teachers to unclean dogs and pigs. Conduct betrays nature, generally speaking. Dogs return to corruption that comes from within them: vomit. Pigs return to filth that they find outside themselves, even though their handlers may clean them up occasionally." How do these word pictures help to illustrate the severity of what the false teachers are doing? Especially in comparison to what a true, faithful, and obedient Christian should do?

Heart:

- Have you ever heard a false teacher before? If so, how did you know they were a false teacher? How does one ensure what they are listening to is true? How does knowing there are false teachers in this world impact how you receive and listen to teachings of others?

- How are you currently guarding yourself from false statements, ideas, and/or beliefs?

Hands:

- How are you helping those in your Life Group? What are simple ways the Life Group can pursue truth and not false teaching?

Conclusion:

- As we conclude, is there anything from Pastor Kevin's sermon that stood out to you that we have not yet discussed? Why do you think that particular thing stood out to you?

Pray:

Is there anything that you can pray for as a result of today's passage?

Spend time praying for one another's needs and requests.