



# Life Group Discussion Guide

## Introduction:

*Continue using "The Moody Bible Commentary" for your preparation for this week's lesson.*

What do you typically do when you are waiting at the doctor's office or in the grocery store line? Is waiting hard for you? Why or why not?

What is something that you waited a long time for that ended up being a disappointment? Now, what is something that you waited a long time for that ended up being better than you had imagined?

## Head:

- Verse 11 connects what Peter just said about the things of the future to what he is about to say in regards to living presently in view of that future. What Peter says to these early Christians are instructions for us as well. The apostle implores Christians to live lives of holiness and godliness. What is the difference between holiness and godliness? (Holiness = living set apart from the world in order to please God, godliness = God likeness in character) How would your family, friends, neighbors, and/or coworkers say you are at living a life of holiness and godliness? Why is that? Where do you need to grow in holiness and godliness?

- Peter says that Christians are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth. What does he say the reason is for waiting? Do you long or wait patiently for the new heavens and new earth, excited for living where righteousness dwells? Why or why not? What might you need to encourage you to long for dwelling with righteousness?

- Consider reading Isaiah 65:17-25 and spending a few moments in biblical meditation (consideration) about how wonderful this promise by God is. What do you long for most out of the promise of God making all things new and right?

- Last week and this week, the passages have had a lot of End Times language. The theological term we use is "eschatology" and is the study of what the Bible says is going to happen in the end (or last) times. Doug Moo says "Christians need to remember the ultimate, 'bottom-line,' purpose of biblical eschatology: to make us better Christians here and now." How does the book of 2 Peter, and the rest of Scripture, help make you a better Christian knowing what will happen in the future? If you don't feel you are a better Christian as a result, what can this group do to help encourage you in your growth? Do you agree or disagree with Moo's statement? Why or why not?

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- In verse 14, Peter calls these Christians to be found by God without spot or blemish. Thomas Constable, in his commentary on 2 Peter, said "Spotless means without defect or defilement (as in a spotless sacrifice), and blameless means without justifiable cause for reproach, without offense. The false teachers were stains and blemishes (2:13), but believers need to be spotless and blameless." In what way(s) has the letter of 2 Peter helped these Christians learn to live in a way that can be found without spot or blemish? How are you learning and applying ways to work out your salvation?

- Verses 15-16 show that Paul's words were already being twisted and manipulated, and that Peter is warning these Christians about those that twist them. It might even provide us comfort to know that the Apostle Peter found some of Paul's words difficult! If the warning exists to not manipulate and twist the words of Scripture, how do you interact with those that do distort the Bible? Have you ever distorted the words and meaning of Scripture? Why is it so important to not make up your own interpretation or understanding of the Bible?

- As Peter concludes, he summarizes his teaching and provides a beautiful doxology (praise to God). How does Peter summarize his letter? How would you summarize his teachings in a simple one to two sentences? (Have multiple people do this exercise.)

## **Heart:**

- Peter exhorts these Christians to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." How have you grown in the grace and knowledge of Jesus in the past? How would those closest to you say that you are currently growing? How would you like to grow?

## **Hands:**

- Peter calls these Christians "beloved" four times in this chapter (1, 8, 14, 17). Each time he issued a challenge. What are those four challenges? How are you doing with living out those challenges? How can the group encourage and support you in this?

## **Conclusion:**

- As we conclude, is there anything from this past Sunday'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.*