

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 8, 2009

Passage: 2 Peter 2:17-22

Memory Passage: 2 Peter 2:19

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:17.** What do these Proverbs compare to fountains or springs (Proverbs 10:11; 13:14; 14:27; 18:4)? Put in your own words what each of these proverbs teach us.

(b) Jeremiah 2:12-13 speaks of fountains and cisterns. What is a cistern? What are the two evils that are given in this passage? What do the cisterns represent? What might be some contemporary examples of “broken cisterns”?

(c) Read John 4:7-16. How does Jesus describe Himself in this passage (Revelation 21:6; 22:27)? How does this relate to Psalm 1:1-3? How can we be fruitful in this life (John 15:4)? How does spending time meditating and reading the Bible help you to abide in Christ? What have you found helpful in your own quiet time to facilitate this?

(d) How do these false teachers compare? What might be meant by the metaphor “Mists driven by a storm”? Do you think Peter is trying to draw direct versus loose connection between the “gloom of utter darkness” with verse 4’s “chains of gloomy darkness”? How might taking a literal connection versus a representative connection change how we interpret the passage?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:17 and John 4:7-16. Why do you think Jesus uses the metaphor of water? Talk about how water is used in the Old Testament to talk about God’s blessing truth. What does Jesus say is necessary to be given this water? Talk about what Jesus says in John 15:1-6. Is putting faith in Christ something you do once and then you don’t need to do it ever again? Talk about how putting faith in Christ is something you do every day, but receiving eternal salvation is done once. Pray that God would fill your life with His spring of living water today.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:18.** How is the attitude of these men portrayed (Jude 16)? What do these proverbs say about the one who uses his mouth foolishly (Proverbs 18:6-7; 25:14)? Have you ever been around a person like the one described here?

(b) How is it that they pull people in with their sin? Who do they target in their enticing (2 Peter 2:14)? How is it that we move from one barely escaping, to one who has a firm foundation (2 Peter 1:12; Hebrews 5:12-14)? What is your strategy to become established in the truth?

(c) Read Proverbs 5:15-23. What warning does the sage give in this passage? How does he encourage us to resist the temptation to be enticed with evil desires (v. 15,18, 23)? How does what we learned yesterday in Jeremiah 2:12-13 reinforce this?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:18. Talk about the attitude of these false teachers. Who is it that they target? How should we prepare ourselves so that we might not succumb to their enticements (2 Peter 1:12; Hebrews 5:12-14)? Is there something that you can do as a family to establish one another in the truth? Pray that God would establish you in the truth of His word and the power of the Holy Spirit.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:19.** What kind of freedom do they promise (vv. 2:18; 3:4, 10)? How are we free in Christ (Romans 6:17-23)? How should we respond in the freedom that we have now (Romans 6:15-16; 1 Peter 2:16)?

(b) How were believers described in verse 1:4 with regards to the word “corruption”? How does this compare with the status of these false teachers?

(c) Why is the freedom that these teachers offer so alluring? How do what these teachers do mirror what the world does? What are some of those things that seem to offer freedom to you?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:19. What kind of freedom are these teachers offering? Are they really free themselves? Read Romans 6:15-23. What does Paul mean in verses 15 and 16? How are we supposed to act? What would a “slave to righteousness” look like? Have you been freed from the slavery of sin? How? Thank God for the freedom from sin that Christ has bought for all who believe.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:20.** The word for “escaped” is used in two other places in the New Testament here and in verses 1:4 and 2:18. What kind of escape does it describe in those two passages? Are they used the same way or differently?

(b) The word “defilements” or “pollutions” is only used here in the whole New Testament though a similar word is used in 2:10 to describe the type of desires that they have. Is there a connection between these two similar words? Verse 20 is very similar to verse 1:4. Why might Peter change the word from corruption to defilements in this passage?

(c) The last phrase of verse 20 mirrors Matthew 12:45. What is Matthew 12:42-45 talking about? Might this help us to understand this verse better? How is the last state worse than the first (Luke 12:47-48)?

(d) *Family* Read 2 Peter 2:20 and 1 John 2:19. Talk about how these two verses relate to one another. What do John 10:27-29 and 1 Peter 1:4 teach us about the security of our salvation? How does 2 Peter 1:8-10 tell us to make sure for ourselves of our salvation? Pray that the Lord would fill you with a love and passion to earnestly grow in all those qualities.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:21-22.** What kind of knowing is Peter talking about here and in verse 20? Is it a saving knowledge or merely a knowledge about? How is the term “the way” used in the New Testament (Acts 8:2; 19:9; Matthew 21:32)?

(b) It is guessing at best as to what “the holy commandment” is referring to. But what are some of the great commandments of Jesus in particular?

(c) Verse 22 has two proverbs. The first one is from Proverbs 26:11. In your own words, what does that proverb mean? The second one is a common Greek expression.

(d) How are both dogs and pigs referred to by Jesus? How did Jewish people see pigs and dogs (Exodus 22:31; Psalm 22:16; Leviticus 11:7)? How might these proverbs help us to interpret the previous verses?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:21-22. Why would it be better not to know about Jesus than to know and reject Him? Read Proverbs 26:11. What does this proverb mean? How had these false teachers been like these dogs? Talk about how both dogs and pigs were seen as unclean animals. Why is this important? Give thanks to God that He is good and gracious and knows the tares from the wheat.

#### **DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read 2 Peter 2:17-22. What have you learned this week? Do you think that verse 20 teaches that you can lose your salvation? Why or why not? What examples of false teachers can you think of from contemporary culture? Has any part of Peter’s warning stuck out to you this week? What part and why? Pray that God would keep you from all manner of evil and establish you in the truth of His word.

**DATE:** November 8, 2009

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### ***The Emptiness of Counterfeits***

*“They are slaves of corruption”*