

Family Worship Guide – Week 28

READ

In Peter's second letter he seeks to dissuade his readers from following the teaching of the false teachers in their midst. These teachers are propagating a false theology which says that the day of Christ's return is simply a fairy tale and therefore Peter's readers should not continue to live lives of holiness and purity but instead are free to live however they like. Peter refutes this false theology by consistently reminding his readers throughout the letter that there is in fact coming a day when Christ will return in judgment. Therefore, in light of this day, he strongly exhorts his readers to continue to hold onto the gospel and live lives of holiness and godliness rather than follow the perverse and impure lives of the false teachers.

Place yourself in the shoes of Peter's readers. Who do you listen to? Peter or the false teachers? Who is more credible? Who is telling the truth? How do you know? If the teaching of the false teachers is true, then Peter's readers are free to abandon the faith and indulge themselves in all sorts of sensuality. However, if Peter is telling the truth, then denying this truth has severe and eternal consequences. In light of these all-important questions of credibility Peter sprinkles many different reasons throughout the letter for why he (and his teaching) and not the false teachers is a trustworthy source and should be followed. One such example is found in 2 Peter 1:16-21.

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21.

Within these verses Peter gives two reasons why his readers can trust his teaching, as opposed to the false teachers', regarding the return of Christ.

- 1) Peter was an eyewitness of the coming of Christ (v. 16-18). In these verses Peter is referring to his majestic encounter with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (see Matthew 16:24-17:13). The transfiguration was designed to show Peter, James, and John (the three apostles) what Christ would be like in His glory and to give them a foretaste of His coming return and kingdom. This glorious demonstration gave Peter's teaching regarding the second coming of Christ much more credibility as he saw a small glimpse of what was to come.
- 2) OT prophecy guarantees Christ's return (v. 19-21). Not only was Peter a credible source because he had been an eyewitness of Jesus' power and coming in the transfiguration, but Peter is also sure of Jesus' return because of the witness of OT prophecy (Isaiah 60:1; Malachi 4:2). In contrast to the false teachers, whose teaching is filled with nothing more than the words of men, the prophetic word of the OT can be trusted because it was ultimately spoken by God.

Questions:

Why does Peter's encounter with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration give his teaching credibility among his readers (and us)?

How does Peter describe the prophetic word in verse 19? What implications does this have on your life and your time in God's Word?

What would be the result(s) if the Bible were simply the spoken words of men? What practical implications would this have on our lives? Thankfully, verse 21 informs us that this is not the case. Instead, it proclaims that the Bible is in fact the spoken Word of God. What implications should this have on our lives?

Bottom Line: We can be sure of Christ's coming return.

PRAY

The heartbreak of AIDS may be the first thing that comes to mind when Sub-Saharan African peoples are mentioned. And it is true that AIDS, other diseases and poverty-related problems are major concerns for these peoples. But parts of Africa boast a vibrant and growing Christian presence that is flooding these peoples with hope. Sadly, there are millions of others who have yet to be reached with the gospel. In fact, over 50% of Sub-Saharan African peoples are considered unreached. For some, extremely rough terrain physically hinders their access to truth. Others are blinded by false religions or the problems of daily life. The IMB has many field missionaries there that are working hard to plant churches and make disciples. Johannesburg serves as the main administrative hub for these missionaries. Hannah Davis is 26 years

old and is from Birmingham. She graduated with a degree in accounting and has been working at Pricewaterhouse Cooper as a CPA. She has been a member at The Church at Brook Hills since 2006. Hannah has served on many short-term teams and has extensive experience in different contexts on mission trips. She started the process of going long-term a few years ago as the Lord began to grow her faith and give her opportunities to use her skills as an accountant and her desire to share the gospel. An opportunity to serve as a journeyman at the main IMB hub in South Africa became available at the beginning of the year. Hannah also has a desire to extend her ministry to the poor while she is in Johannesburg. The area where she will live and work has a high percentage of children living in poverty. Her desire is to link with a local church and organization in the area and serve the needs of the poor and share the gospel through disciple-making in those ministries. We must pray for Hannah and for the spread of the gospel in Sub-Saharan Africa.

SING

Let us rejoice in the fact that we can put our hope in Jesus Christ as we sing this week's worship song. It's a medley made up of the modern hymn, 'In Christ Alone', by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, and the chorus of the old hymn, 'Solid Rock' by Keith Ward and Edward Mote.

'In Christ Alone' declares the life of Christ in four verses, the second of which begins, "In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe..." The song progresses through His life declaring, "Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!" Christ came to earth as a helpless babe, lived a sinless life, but more than that, He died and rose again to pardon our sins. 'In Christ Alone' speaks bold claims of what this means for us as believers.

The medley concludes with the victorious chorus exclaiming, "On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand." These are wonderful words to sing knowing they are indeed true. In the midst of so many false teachers we can rest in Christ alone, for He is our rock.

MEMORIZE

2 Peter 1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin, grab your Bible and print a picture from the Internet or use a photo you have of an adult reading a book to a child.
- Read 2 Peter 1: 20.
- Show your preschooler the picture you printed and point to the child in the picture. Say, "This child is reading a book with his _____ (mom, dad, uncle, grandmother). Can you find the book?" Have your child point to the book. "This is his favorite book to read. What are your favorite books?" Encourage your preschooler to talk about their favorite books. Now, point to your Bible. "Say, this book is my favorite book to read. It is the Bible."
- Explain to your preschooler that the Bible is a very special book that God has given us. The Bible is God's book to tell His story so that we can know Him better. God wants us to know Him, His power and His love. God wants us to trust in Him and to follow His plan for our lives. In God's very special book, the Bible, we are told over and over that God loves us.
- Pray with your preschooler and thank God for giving us the Bible, His special book. Thank Him for showing us that Jesus is His son and for sending Him to save us from our sins.

Children

- Read 2 Peter 1: 16-19. Who is writing this letter? (Peter) Who was Peter? (One of Jesus' disciples)
- What stories/characteristics do you remember about Peter? Let the children respond. (He was a fisherman, tried to walk on water, denied Jesus 3 times, had a hot temper, etc.)
- Peter was one of the first of Jesus' disciples, and he was with Jesus throughout his entire 3 years of ministry. So Peter knew Jesus very well.
- Have you ever seen a trial in real-life or on TV, with a judge, witnesses, and a jury? Why does each side call witnesses? (To tell what they have seen or heard.) Which one would be more important – a witness who saw the thief steal the car

or the witness whose friend told him that the thief had stolen the car? Right, obviously the one who saw the theft happen. That person is called an eyewitness because he saw it with his own eyes. The eyewitness can be certain about what he saw or heard.

- In the Bible, who were eyewitnesses to all that Jesus did? (The 12 disciples) So Peter was an eyewitness.
- Read vv. 16-18 again. Peter is referring to the Mount of Transfiguration (see Matt. 16: 24 – 17:13). Peter, James and John actually saw Jesus transformed into a more glorious appearance similar to what Jesus will be like in heaven. This let Peter know for sure that heaven is real and that Jesus would return one day as He promised.
- Have you been to the movies lately? What do they always show before the movie? (Previews) Why do they show them? (To make you want to see the new movie) A movie preview is a little clip of what the new movie will be like, and it makes you really want to see the movie. The Mount of Transfiguration was similar for the disciples. This “preview” of heaven made Peter and the others really want to live a holy life for Christ because Peter knew that He would see Jesus again one day. Peter wanted to tell others about Jesus so they would also know that Jesus was returning one day.
- Now reread vv. 19-21. Peter is giving a second reason why his witness about Christ can be trusted rather than false teachers who are telling the people that Jesus will never return. Can you guess what it is from these verses? (The Bible, or the Scriptures) Peter explained that the Bible prophesies the return of Christ and that the Word of God is always true.
- Do you believe that everything in the Bible is true? How do you know?
- One way we know the Bible is true is because the promises in the Old Testament about Jesus came true. Do you remember any of them? Here are some you might want to look at with your child(ren):
 - Ps. 89:29, 35-36 – From line of David
 - Isa. 11:1, 10a – From line of Jesse
 - Ps. 2:6 – Would be called King of the Jews
 - Ps. 2:7a – Would be the Son of God
 - Micah 5:2a – Would be born in Bethlehem
 - Isa. 7:14 – Would be born of a virgin
 - Zech. 9:9 – Would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey
 - Exod. 12:46, Psalms 22:17a – His bones would not be broken in death
 - Ps. 16: 8-10 – His body would not see decay
 - Ps. 22:18b – Soldiers would divide his garments and cast lots for his clothes
 - Ps. 68:18a – Would ascend back into heaven
- Because God always keeps His promises and the Bible is true, we know that Christ will return to take believers to heaven with Him one day. We can hold fast to the promises in Isaiah 60:1 and Malachi 4:2 about His return.
- Pray and thank God the Father that Jesus the Son will return for His bride. Ask God to help you be holy like Jesus so you can be a good example for others. Take time to praise our Heavenly Father and Christ our Redeemer for His coming return. Hebrews 12:28 says: “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.”

Students

- In sequence, look back at 2 Peter 1, and read the following verses, and ask the questions that follow each verse.
- 2 Peter 1:3 – What has God granted to believers according to this verse? (All we need for godliness and contentment) How has He granted it? (Through the knowledge of Him)
- 2 Peter 1:8 – What qualities does verse 8 say will make us fruitful? (faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love [v. 5-7])
- 2 Peter 1:16 – Knowing that Peter was an eyewitness to the majesty of Jesus, what kind of things did Peter see that you really wish you could have been standing beside him to see? (Mom and dad may need to help some from your own knowledge of Peter’s life. Some examples might include the feeding of the 5000 [Matthew 14:13-21], walking on water [Matthew 14:22-33], the transfiguration of Jesus [Matthew 17:1-13].)
- State: “Peter, and the other men who wrote the New Testament saw amazing things on a daily basis in the life of Jesus, and they wrote them down to provide everything we need for godliness and contentment. Furthermore, they promise us He is coming again.”
- Ask: “If you were to write down the amazing things you have seen Jesus do in your life, in our family, or even through our faith family, what would you want to write down that would encourage your family 20 years from now?”
- Challenge your family to keep a journal of the acts of God in your personal lives and in your family in order to encourage the next generation to know Him (Psalm 78). This would be a great opportunity to share some of the great things God has done in your life as a parent that your children may not have heard. This also presents you an opportunity to provide a journal to your children and start the process of teaching them how to journal.
- Pray that your family would be used to tell others of the majestic work of Jesus in the week ahead, and until He returns.

Lives/Church

In 2 Peter 1:19-21 Peter highlights the sufficiency and supremacy of God's Word. He tells his readers they would "do well to pay attention" to it as "a lamp shining in a dark place." Scripture reigns supreme over all competing truth claims because it contains the very words of God Himself. In light of these truths pray we would be a church which consistently delights and longs for God's Word. Pray that we would be a church that would never compromise the truth and authority of God's Word. Pray we would be quick to hide His Word in our hearts and live in joyful submission to it. And pray that the Word of God would be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Local

Local Church: First Baptist Gardendale - Kevin Hamm

Focus: AMBUCS - a Christian non-profit that serves disabled children and adults with mobility and independence through AmTryke therapeutic tricycles and wheelchair ramps.

Monday: Pray that God would grant Dave Upton, President and Founder of AMBUCS, strength and endurance as he leads the multiple outreaches of the ministry.

Tuesday: Pray that God would grant Anna Stansell wisdom and creativity as she transitions into her new role as Executive Director of AMBUCS.

Wednesday: Pray that God would use AMBUCS to minister to families with special needs so that they can "taste and see" that God is good and be drawn closer to Christ.

Thursday: Pray that God would use AMBUCS to connect families with special needs to churches that can minister to them spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially.

Friday: Pray that God would raise up volunteers to lead and coordinate the following areas of AMBUCS: partnerships with churches, wheelchair ramp construction program, and the Amtrykes program.

Saturday: Pray that God would allow AMBUCS to raise the funds needed to provide therapeutic tricycles and wheelchair ramps to the growing number of people requesting them.

Scripture Memory

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21

In Christ Alone/The Solid Rock

Words and Music By Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Additional Lyrics by Edward Mote and William B. Bradbury

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This cornerstone this solid ground

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My comforter my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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