

THE COMMONS LEADER GUIDE

October 7th
Week 1 - A Final Challenge

MAIN SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1

MAIN POINTS

- Our faith is rooted in knowledge of Christ and knowledge of truth (v. 2, 3, 5, 8).
- God gives us everything we need for life and godliness (v.3-4).
- Spiritual growth is intentional (v.5-11).
- Jesus is not a myth (1:16-21).

BACKGROUND

2 Peter, like 1 Peter, is written by the apostle Peter to the same network of churches. Peter is aware he is going to die soon, so he gives these believers a final challenge and final warning that carry the weight and urgency of a man's final pleas (1:13-15). Unlike 1 Peter, which focused on how to live faithfully while suffering as exiles in the world, 2 Peter looks ahead to the dangers facing the church from within—spiritual apathy, false teachers, and distorted teaching. He wants his readers to remember the truth of the gospel, to grow in maturity, and to stay rooted in God's promises.

Peter begins with a final challenge that Jesus' followers never stop growing. He emphasizes the importance of *knowledge*—their faith must be rooted in knowledge of truth, and this truth is rooted in their "knowledge" of Christ (v. 3). Peter addresses the sobering reality that believers can limit their effectiveness so that their knowledge of Christ proves fruitless. God has given them everything they need for life and godliness (v. 3a), but they are called to live in harmony with God's moral character (v. 3b) and "add to" their faith righteous qualities. These qualities don't save them, but they are the fruits of salvation and keep them from falling (v. 10). Believers can have confidence in this because of the certainty of Jesus' divine nature and promised return (v. 16-21).

RESOURCES

[2 Peter Bible Project Video](#)

[Enduring Word Commentary - 2 Peter 1](#)

UPCOMING COMMONS EVENTS

LATE NIGHT - **Oct. 16th**

THEOLOGY CLASS - **Oct. 9th**

COSTA RICA DEADLINE - **Oct. 30th**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 1 Peter 1:1-11

1. What do you notice about how Peter introduces himself in v. 1? Why do you think he calls himself a servant before an apostle?
2. What does knowledge of Jesus grant us? (v. 2-4)
3. What do you think it means to be a participant in Christ's divine nature? (v. 4).
4. Peter says in v. 5 "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith..." What are the "reasons" Peter is referring to?
5. How might lacking the qualities listed in v. 5-7 make us "ineffective and unproductive in [our] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 8)?
6. How do you think lacking these qualities make us "nearsighted" (v. 9)?
7. What do you think it means that these qualities "confirm [our] calling and election" (v. 10)?
8. Peter says in v. 12 that these believers already know about these qualities. Why do you think he addresses them anyways?

READ 1 Peter 1:16-21

1. In this section Peter reassures believers of the truth of the gospel and Jesus Christ. How does he reassure them?
 - *Peter witnessed the transfiguration which confirmed Jesus' divine identity (v. 17-18).*
2. Why do you think Peter takes the time to reassure believers of this after the last section? (v. 21)
3. Why can we trust what Scripture says?

APPLICATION

1. Looking at the list of qualities in 1:5-7, which one challenges you the most right now? Why? What is one step you can take this week to grow in that quality?
2. Do you have doubts about the truth of Jesus' identity or the reliability of Scripture? Who can you reach out to to get wisdom about this?

