

Get Out of Your Own Way

September 6, 2020

2 Peter 2:1-11

Warming Up

1. Have the group share everything they know about the apostle Peter. See how many events and episodes you can come up with that he was involved in, how many quotes of his you can remember.

Knowing the Gospel...

2. In Peter's introduction (2 Peter 1:1), what strong statement does he make about the nature of Christ? Check out these verses that affirm the same thing about Christ's Deity: Phil. 2:6, Col. 1:15, 19, Col. 2:9, Heb. 1:3, Heb. 1:8, John 1:1, John 14:7, John 10:30

3. In verse 1, how does Peter say we've obtained a faith of equal standing? What does this tell us about the importance of Jesus' life here on earth? (Heb. 4:15, 1 Pet. 2:22, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 John 3:5, 1 Pet. 1:18-19, Is. 53:9). What does this imply about our ability to live righteous lives and our condition before God w/o Christ? (Rom. 3:10-12, Rom. 3:21-28, Rom. 5:12, 17, Eph. 2:3)

4. What do you think are the "very great and precious promises" (NIV) through which we become like Christ, that Peter mentions in verse 4? Check out Peter's sermon in Acts 2:14-41 to identify some of these promises---and 1 very personal one in particular☺ (Consider also 2 Pet. 1:3, 1 Jn. 3:2, 2 Pet. 3:4, 1 Pet. 1:4).

Living the Gospel...

5. Peter gives a long list of different Godly qualities in 2 Peter 1:5-7. Discuss what each one looks like in real everyday life, in the Christian who is growing in them.

Which ones has God's power changed and grown in your life? Which ones do you still struggle with?

6. Regarding the qualities listed in verses 5-7, How do we "add them" or "supplement them to our faith?"

What does this tell us about the nature of sanctification (growing in Christlikeness)?

Who is responsible for our growth in Christlikeness? What is God's role? What is our role? Check out these verses to get the whole picture about how we grow in Christlikeness (Phil. 2:12-13, Col. 1:29, Col. 3:9,10,12, Eph. 4:22-24, Titus 2:11-12, Titus 3:8)

What 1 thing can you pray for this week to grow in one of these qualities? What 1 thing can you do?

7. In 2 Peter 3:8, how does Peter describe the sad state of a believer who is not growing in these kinds of inner qualities? What do you think it looks like in everyday life when a believer is "ineffective and unfruitful/unproductive" in their faith? Describe a season in your life when that might have been true of you. How did it impact others around you (believers and unbelievers)?

How can a person protect themselves from becoming ineffective and unproductive in their knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Telling the Gospel...

8. Share of a time when you've seen a Christian's character play a significant part in leading someone to Christ. Share of a time when you've seen the opposite☹

9. How would you explain to a nonbeliever, the difference between just a good, moral (unsaved) person and a Christian who is growing in Christlikeness?

Next Week: 2 Peter 1:12-21

