



**THINK  
STRAIGHT  
AHEAD  
IN A SCEPTICAL  
& DOOMED WORLD**

Our midweek  
*growth groups*  
are the heart of our church  
life together. They are, as the  
name suggests, about growing!  
We grow in...



- ***Our understanding of God's Word***

Our studies follow the Sunday sermons, and there's lots of room for interaction, discussion and questions.

- ***Our love for God***

Meeting together is truly life-changing as God works powerfully in us by His Spirit through His Word.

- ***our love for God's family***

They're a great place to build real, encouraging friendships, while providing opportunities to practically serve, care and pray for one another.

- ***our love for God's world***

Our groups are a place where we can pray and partner with one another in God's mission to the world.

in His love & grace,



# INTRODUCING 2 PETER

Peter's second letter does not so much reveal new truths, but encourages his readers to remember what they already know to be true - gospel truths about God and godliness, and about Jesus Christ and His return.

Peter wants his readers to think straight, in that they ought to think correctly and clearly about the gospel.

And he wants the readers to think ahead, in that they should keep in mind and live in the light of Jesus' return. And they should do this while living and engaging in a world that is packed with sceptics and antagonists. A world which has a sell-by-date! Which is not because of climate change. God is working out His eternal plan of salvation and judgement which will climax in the glorious return of Christ.



study 1 - 2 Peter

## **WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHY?**

study 2 - 2 Peter 1:1-11

## **ALL THAT WE NEED**

study 3 - 2 Peter 1:12-21

## **REMEMBER THE TRUTH**

study 4 - 2 Peter 2:1-22

## **FALSE TEACHERS**

study 5 - 2 Peter 3:1-10

## **COMING, READY OR NOT**

study 6 - 2 Peter 3:11-18

## **GODLY, ON GUARD & GROWING**

## 1

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him

I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## 2

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) - 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgement on them from the Lord. 12 But these people blaspheme

in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.

13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. 14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed - an accursed brood! 15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey - an animal without speech - who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

17 These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity - for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them." 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

### 3

1 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. 2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles.

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on

as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

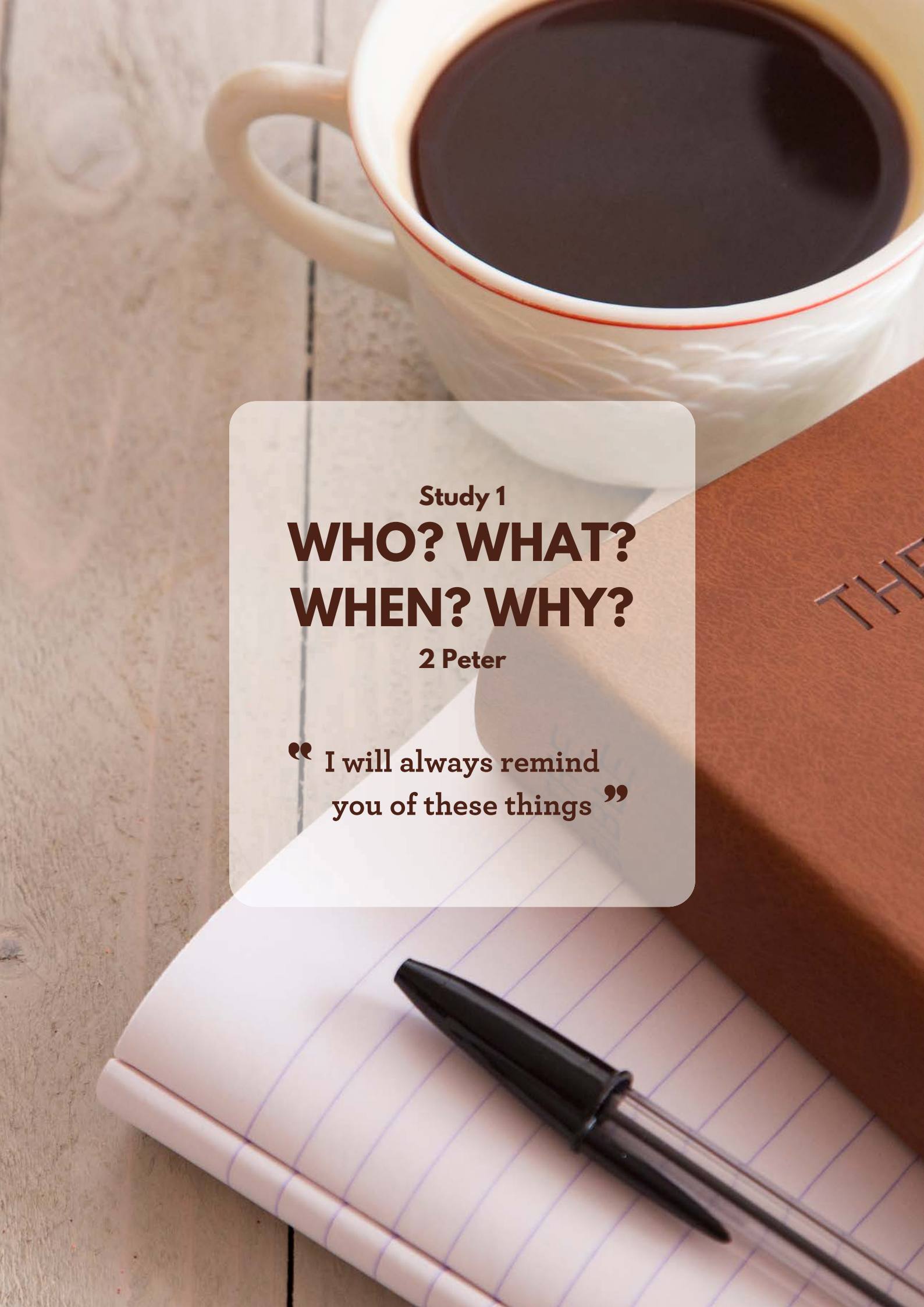
17 Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

### *A note about this study guide*

The questions in this study guide are not all meant to be given equal time. There will be some comprehension questions which will help you to become familiar with the passage, and in turn assist you in answering questions that require interpretation and practical application.

This study guide is intended as a tool and not a rule. It is more to be used as a compass pointing you in a direction than a map that directs your every step. The goal is not finishing the study (however helpful that is), but rather meeting with God by His Spirit through His Word.



A top-down photograph of a study desk. In the upper right, a white ceramic coffee cup with a red rim is filled with dark coffee. Below it, a brown leather-bound book is partially visible. In the foreground, a white notebook with purple horizontal lines is open, and a black pen lies on its pages. The entire scene is set on a light-colored wooden surface.

Study 1  
**WHO? WHAT?  
WHEN? WHY?**

2 Peter

“ I will always remind  
you of these things ”





## Study 1

# WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHY?

## 2 Peter



### Read the whole of 2 Peter

Ask a capable reader<sup>1</sup> to read the whole of 2 Peter to the group. At this point it's best NOT to follow along in your Bibles, but simply to listen while it's being read.

### First Impressions!

Once the letter has been read, take a few minutes to note down your impressions. (e.g. Anything that struck you? The tone or 'vibe'? Themes? etc) Perhaps each person can mention one or two of their impressions. (depending on the size of the group)

Now read through the letter individually in the text provided and use a pen/highlighters to mark the text. (e.g. It is helpful to look for connecting words, recurring words or phrases, repeated ideas, and themes?)

<sup>1</sup> Choose someone who will read with understanding, emphasis, tone, etc. Alternatively play the audio of the Bible recording from [www.biblica.com/bible/niv/](http://www.biblica.com/bible/niv/) or another suitable app.

Now, as a group, discuss the following questions. It's not important to have definitive answers as yet. What's important at this stage is to be thinking hard.

### **What we learn about the author?**

1. What information about the author can you discover?
2. How does he describe himself?
3. What is his situation at the time of writing?
4. Why is he writing?

### **What we learn about the original recipients?**

5. What information about the original recipients can you discover?
6. What particular issues do they seem to be facing?

### **What we learn about the contents?**

7. What makes you go 'Wow'? (e.g. What do you find interesting? What stands out to you?)

8. What makes you go ‘Huh’? (e.g. What do you find confusing? What questions are raised in your mind?)

9. Make a (short) list of what you think are the main topics dealt with?

10. [Bonus question time permitting, or for homework] Make a (small) graphic or flow chart of how you think the letter is structured? (e.g. What is the flow or argument or topics? How is the material arranged?)

11. What is the general thrust or main message of the letter? Try and summarise this in one or two simple sentences. (Don’t worry about getting this perfect. You’ll revisit and revise this summary as you work more slowly and closely through the details of the letter.)



### **Apply**

12. What do you find particularly challenging about what you’ve learnt from this letter so far?



### **Prayer Notes**