



SESSION 10

Growing Spiritually

Key takeaways for new believers:

- God has revealed much of Himself through the bible and He actively encourages us to live a life which is changed because of what Jesus has done for us.
- The Christian walk is an ongoing experience, and we are encouraged to live a 'godly' life, as well as live our lives based on the grace He has offered us.

Part 1

identity

worship

- Review the story from session 9 (Guidance through the Holy Spirit). Talk about students' experiences of retelling the story or contemplating the story since the previous session.
- Listen to or sing worship songs for example Oceans, by Hillsongs (it is long, but could be used to see what God says to each person, as well as being a time of worship)
- Allow participants time to discuss any pastoral / spiritual issues on their minds



CHRIST CENTRAL

Part 2 (story)

identity

community

mission

Transition: In the last few stories we saw how the early church was formed and grew and God clearly showed His church was to include everyone, not just Jewish people. We also saw the important role of the Holy Spirit. In today's story, Peter, one of the early apostles wrote to the church encouraging them to 'grow in their faith' and lead godly lives.

Growing Spiritually (2 Peter 1:3-21)

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself ... He has given us great and precious promises, *through which we are able to share God's divine nature, since we have escaped and are escaping the world's corruption that was caused by human desires.*

In view of this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. *Build on to your faith a good character, and then add knowledge to that, and then self-control, and then patient endurance, and then godliness, and then brotherly affection, and then love for everyone.*

... So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. Then God will give you *the full right to enter into His eternal Kingdom.*

We were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendour with our own eyes when he received honour and glory from God the Father *who said to Him ... "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."* ... Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets *whose words are like a lamp shining out until the day comes when Jesus Christ returns in His glory ... so pay attention to their words ... who were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.*

Questions for discussion

1. What do you like about this story?
2. What bothered you about this story?
3. What does this story show you about God?
4. What does this story show you about people?



CHRIST CENTRAL

Part 3 (practice / takeaways)

identity

community

worship

mission

5. What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
6. How will you remember this story?
7. Is there anyone you would like to tell this story to?

Bible verses about God's word:

- **Joshua 1:8**
- **Romans 10:17**
- **Hebrews 4:12**
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- **Psalms 119:11**
- **Job 23:12**

Other useful resources

The Bible Project is a website with vast resources and aids to help you learn about the Bible. This link takes you to an online series on 'How to Read the Bible'

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>



CHRIST CENTRAL

Notes for Leaders

Second Peter was written during the Roman persecution of Christians under Emperor Nero. Peter wrote the first chapter as an encouragement to Christians who suffered persecution. In the second chapter, Peter addressed the problems faced by the early church in particular those of false teachers who were causing people to doubt their faith and turn away from Christianity.

Experience of God's grace and peace comes from getting to know Him better through prayer and bible reading.

Faith in God is more than believing facts or what we cannot see. Faith is also actions of growing spiritually and practicing things described by Peter such as love, self-control, moral discipline, perseverance.

It is also worth bringing out the following points as you discuss the questions or go through this series, and the implications for new believers:

Do you think it's important to know what the bible says? Why?

- The power to lead a godly life comes from God. In order to live a godly life, we need to know God better.
- God allows us to share his divine nature in order to keep us from sin and help us live for Him.
- When we are born again, God by his Spirit, empowers us with His own goodness.

What are some ways you can come to know God better?

- Reading the bible
- Meeting with like-minded people (church/connect group)
- Prayer
- Listening to the Holy Spirit

If you have never got to grips with reading the Bible regularly before, why not try reading a little bit each day? You could start with one of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. As you read, remind yourself of that the Creator of the universe wants to speak to you today through his Word, the Bible.