

True or False
LifeGroup Lesson
August 20, 2017
2 Peter 2:1-12

OPENING PRAYER:

O Lord, you who are all merciful, take away my sins from me and enkindle within me the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away this heart of stone from me, and give me a heart of flesh and blood. Give me a heart to love and adore you. Give me a heart which may delight in you, love you and please you. For Christ's sake. Amen.

--St. Ambrose (339-397), Bishop of Milan

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- Have you or someone you've known been deceived by someone who said they were a Christian? What was the outcome?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

2 Peter 2:1-12:

- Why are false teachers so dangerous? Based upon Peter's description of false teachers, where do you see this today? False prophets were a problem then and now, why do you think people fall for them?
- Even as Peter discusses false teachers, he always wants to encourage the believer. Where do you see hope for the believer?
- In vs. 4-9, what does it teach you about the Old Testament events? How does this inform your faith?

2 Peter 2:13-22:

- In your experience, does grace ever come through perverse channels (i.e., heretics, wicked, etc.) or only through 'pure vessels'? Why?
- What impulses and desires control false teachers? How do we all succumb to this at times? What do you struggle with?
- Where do you see today that 'under the banner of freedom' people are actually enslaved? How have you experienced true freedom in Christ?
- How can you protect yourself from the influence of false teachers?

NEXT STEPS:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- Pray for the people you know who are being led astray? Pray for strength for yourself?
- The Nicene Creed (325 A.D.) is said to define our faith. Pray this creed this week. What does it teach you? Research what you want to know more about it.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

I did not know you, my Lord, because I still desired to know and delight in things. Well and good if all things change, Lord God, provided we are rooted in you. If I go everywhere with you, my God, everywhere things will happen as I desire for your sake.

St. John of the Cross (1542-1591), Carmelite mystic and poet.