

Study Guide: The Big Picture of God's Plan for You

This study guide is designed for individuals, families, and Bible study groups to explore the core concepts of God's plan for spiritual growth, character development, and ultimate maturity as presented in 2 Peter 1 and related Scriptures.

Part 1: Group & Family Discussion Questions

These open-ended questions encourage reflection on how God's plan applies to daily living, personal growth, and character transformation.

1. **Understanding God's Intentions** *Read Jeremiah 29:11 and John 10:10.* How do these Scriptures describe God's intentions for your spiritual life, relationships, health, finances, and work? How does God's objective for your life contrast with the purpose of "the thief"?
2. **Grace and Peace as Essential Tools** *Read 2 Peter 1:2 and Philippians 4:6–7.* The lesson describes grace as our "superpower" and peace as the "antidote to anxiety." Discuss what it means for grace to give us the desire, power, and ability to complete our journey. How does God's peace protect our hearts and minds from fear?
3. **Becoming vs. Doing** *Read Romans 8:29.* Why is "becoming someone" (reaching maturity in Christ's likeness) more important to God than simply "doing something"? How does shifting your focus from *tasks* to *character transformation* change your daily outlook?
4. **The Critical Sequence: Moral Excellence Before Knowledge** *Read 2 Peter 1:5, 1 Peter 5:5, and Proverbs 3:34.* Why is it essential to develop moral excellence (integrity) *before* acquiring advanced knowledge? What warning does the lesson give about knowledge that lacks a foundation of strong moral character?
5. **Self-Control and Discipleship** *Read 1 Corinthians 6:12 and 1 Corinthians 9:27.* How does the root word of "disciple" connect to self-discipline and self-control? What does it mean in practical terms to "rule over your appetites" rather than letting temporary gratification rule over you?
6. **Enduring Through Trials** *Read Hebrews 6:11–12 and Hebrews 12:2.* How is "patient endurance" defined in this study? How did Jesus demonstrate this quality on the cross, and how does it help believers inherit God's promises?

7. **From Kindness to Perfected Love** Read *1 Peter 1:22 and 1 John 4:8, 12, 16*. The Greek word *philadelphia* refers to brotherly affection within God's family. How does practicing this kind of kindness lead toward the ultimate goal of *agape* (pure, perfected love)? What does it mean for a believer to become a "living embodiment" of God's love?

Part 2: Comprehension & Application Quiz

Section A: Multiple Choice

1. To whom was the letter of 2 Peter specifically addressed?
 - A) Only to the church leaders in Rome
 - B) Exclusively to Timothy and his family
 - C) To those who have received a faith of the same kind through the righteousness of Jesus Christ (all believers)
 - D) Specifically to people living in the hometown of Abram
2. According to 2 Peter 1:3–4, *how* do believers tap into God's divine power to overcome corruption and share in His divine nature?
 - A) Through strict adherence to human tradition
 - B) Through God's great and precious promises received by faith
 - C) By earning favor through physical labor
 - D) By avoiding all contact with non-believers
3. According to the lesson, what happens when a person gains knowledge without first establishing moral excellence?
 - A) They automatically become spiritual leaders.
 - B) They become proud, and God resists/opposes proud people.
 - C) They lose their memory of Scripture.
 - D) They immediately complete their path to maturity.

4. How is "patient endurance" defined according to Strong's Concordance in the study text?
- A) A passive state of waiting without taking action
 - B) The characteristic of a person who is unswerved from their purpose and loyalty by trials and sufferings
 - C) An emotion felt only during times of ease and comfort
 - D) A temporary period of fasting before making major life decisions
5. How many times is the original Greek word for brotherly affection (*philadelphia*) used in the Bible?
- A) 2 times
 - B) 5 times
 - C) 12 times
 - D) 50 times

Section B: Short Answer & Fill-in-the-Blank

1. Complete the sentence: Grace gives us the _____, the _____, and the _____ to complete the journey and fulfill our purposes in life.
2. What mistake did Abram make early in his journey that tested his moral excellence, and what context principle from Proverbs 24:16 applies to stumbles in life?
3. Name the 8 sequential steps in the path to spiritual maturity outlined in 2 Peter 1:5–7.
 - 1: _____
 - 2: _____
 - 3: _____
 - 4: _____
 - 5: _____
 - 6: _____
 - 7: _____

- 8: _____
- 4. According to 1 John 4:8 and 4:16, what short sentence explicitly defines God's ultimate nature?

Part 3: Answer Key

1. **C) To those who have received a faith of the same kind through the righteousness of Jesus Christ (all believers)** *Context Ref:* 2 Peter 1:1 applies to all believers in Jesus, unlike letters addressed only to specific individuals or locations.
2. **B) Through God's great and precious promises received by faith** *Context Ref:* 2 Peter 1:4 states that His great and precious promises enable us to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption.
3. **B) They become proud, and God resists/opposes proud people.** *Context Ref:* 2 Peter 1:5 lesson commentary notes that knowledge without moral character causes pride, and God opposes the proud (1 Pet 5:5; Prov 3:34; Jas 4:6).
4. **B) The characteristic of a person who is unswerved from their purpose and loyalty by trials and sufferings** *Context Ref:* Strong's Concordance definition cited under Step 5 (Patient Endurance).
5. **B) 5 times** *Context Ref:* Step 7 (Kindness) notes that *philadelphia* appears exactly five times in the Bible.
6. **desire, power, ability** *Context Ref:* Section on 2 Peter 1:2 ("Grace is our superpower...").
7. **Abram stumbled by lying to Pharaoh.** *Context Principle:* According to Proverbs 24:16, "Good people might fall again and again, but they always get up." Stumbling is not complete failure; God offers opportunities to pass repeated tests.
8. **The 8 Building Blocks of Maturity (2 Peter 1:5–7):**
 1. Faith
 2. Moral Excellence (Virtue)
 3. Knowledge

4. Self-Control
5. Patient Endurance
6. Godliness
7. Kindness (Brotherly Affection)
8. Love
9. **"God is love."** *Context Ref:* Step 8 (Love), citing 1 John 4:8 and 1 John 4:16.

Part 4: Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition from Source Context	Biblical Anchor
Grace	God-given power, desire, and ability to complete life's journey and fulfill one's purpose; referred to as a believer's "superpower."	2 Peter 1:2
Peace	The spiritual sense of well-being that acts as an antidote to anxiety, guarding hearts and minds against fear and worry.	2 Peter 1:2; Philippians 4:6–7
Divine Promises	Declarations of God found in Scripture that, when believed, enable believers to tap into God's power, share His divine nature, and escape worldly corruption.	2 Peter 1:4
Faith	The foundational starting point of the spiritual journey; active trust in God that must be demonstrated through living actions/works.	2 Peter 1:5; James 2
Moral Excellence (Virtue)	Integrity of character and moral uprightness; the second building block that must precede spiritual knowledge to prevent pride.	2 Peter 1:5; Proverbs 24:16
Knowledge	Insight regarding the truth of God and life; built upon the foundation of strong moral character.	2 Peter 1:5

Self-Control	Self-discipline; choosing higher, long-term spiritual goals over short-term gratification and ruling over personal appetites. Root of the word <i>disciple</i> .	2 Peter 1:6; 1 Corinthians 9:27
Patient Endurance	Steadfastness or perseverance; being unswerved from deliberate purpose and loyalty to faith despite severe trials, suffering, or disappointment.	2 Peter 1:6; Hebrews 12:2
Godliness	Total devotion to God; an underlying motivation to live more for God and less for self, pleasing Him in actions, attitudes, words, and thoughts.	2 Peter 1:6; Philippians 1:21
Kindness (<i>Philadelphia</i>)	Brotherly affection; treating fellow believers as cherished members of one's own family. Used 5 times in the Bible.	2 Peter 1:7; Romans 12:10
Love (<i>Agape</i>)	The ultimate stage of spiritual maturity and the living embodiment of God's character; pure, unconditional love that reflects God's nature.	2 Peter 1:7; 1 John 4:8