

INDUCTIVE LESSON TWO

Walking Worthy of Our Calling

Many of us grew up with *Sesame Street* and are familiar with the following tune: “One of these things is not like the others; one of these things just doesn’t belong. Can you tell which thing is not like the others by the time I finish my song? Did you guess which thing was not like the others? Did you guess which thing just doesn’t belong? If you guessed this one is not like the others, then you’re absolutely . . . right!”¹ I loved the song because at the end of it I could always separate which one was set apart and different from the rest.

Unfortunately, now that we are all grown up, or at least older, we are often not so successful in discerning which one is not like the others. It is disturbing that often we are surprised, sometimes shocked, when an acquaintance shares that they attend church and profess to be a Christian. They have done such a good job of blending in with all of the nonbelievers around us that we cannot identify them as a follower of Jesus Christ. In this passage, Peter shares with us that the Lord has no use for Camouflage Christians, who effectively look and act like nonbelievers.

In addition, Peter shares with us the cost, the means, and the purpose of our separation from the world and unto the Lord. Many who would profess to be Christians have not pursued holiness because they have a flawed concept of grace. It is true that God’s grace is free but they fail to realize that this gift of grace is not without a tremendous cost. We were redeemed (in the Greek, literally ransomed or bought out of slavery to sin and death) by nothing less than the precious blood of the Lamb, which by comparison renders gold and silver as worthless.

The process of separation from the things of this world begins with a battle for control of our minds. To be holy means to be set apart, and the process of setting apart is called sanctification. Peter tells us the first step in sanctification is to “gird up the loins of your mind.” When Peter wrote this epistle, men often wore long robes, which prevented them from running or moving quickly. To allow freedom of movement, a man would gird his loins by pulling up the hem of his robe and binding it with a sash.

It has been said, based upon James 1:14–15, “Sow a thought, reap an action. Sow an action, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.” The battle for holiness starts in our minds. It was Martin Luther who said, “You can’t keep a bird from flying over your head, but you can keep it from landing and building a nest in your hair.”² In an exhortation similar to Hebrews 12:1 (“Lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles”), Peter tells us to set aside ungodly behaviors and instead crave and feast upon the sustenance of God’s Word.

Finally, Peter shares that we are to be a royal priesthood or living stones which are built into the body of the church. I have a friend whose job requires him to certify that the materials used in large commercial construction projects meet or exceed the quality needed to produce a safe and enduring structure. In a similar fashion, it is my prayer that we as believers follow Peter's exhortations to set ourselves apart from the world and become living stones which the Master Builder will find to be of suitable quality to be useful in the building of His church.

Prayer

Start by praying over the passage and asking the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insights and wisdom in understanding it. Then read through the entire passage two or three times.

Memory Verse

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13

Inductive Method Step 1: Observation

My Observations: In the left column, write down observations you make directly from the text. Things to look for:

What are the promises?

What are the commands?

What are the sources of conflict?

What are the cause/effect relationships?

What are the repeated words and ideas?

What do we know about who is speaking and who is receiving the message?

What comparisons and contrasts can you identify and what do they illustrate?

Do you have unanswered questions on part of the passage? (Share them with your group.)

Digging Deeper: In the right column, write down any additional observations you can add from other sources such as:

Other scriptures that apply (cross references)

Dictionaries for specific words (English or Greek dictionary)

Bible dictionaries for historical information

Commentaries (See the Tool Box at the end of the study for suggested sources.)

Parallel passages in other books. Accounts found in parallel passages, while very similar, often reveal small but critical details omitted by another author.

Inductive Method Step 2: Interpretation

Webster tells us that *interpret* means "to explain the meaning or make understandable." What is the spiritual truth or lesson that God is trying to teach in this passage? Don't isolate the passage but read into it and read out of it. Look for commands, imperatives, promises, or warnings. What is God saying to those people at that time? (You will share

what God is saying to you in the next section.) State the spiritual truth or lesson in a single sentence.

Inductive Method Step 3: Application

This is where you purpose to do what God has taught you in your time with Him. It is through applying the Word that God changes lives. Application does not happen by osmosis but by intent. God enlightens us with His Word, we apply what we've learned with our wills, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to carry out these choices. The goal of all application is to glorify God by becoming more like Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for . . ."

Teaching: What did I learn?

Reproof: Where do I fall short? Why do I fall short?

Correction: What will I do about it?

Training in righteousness: How can I make this principle a consistent part of my life?

Study Text / Worksheet

Write down your observations, comments, or questions directly on the text as you go over it.

Gird Up the Loins of Your Mind

1 Peter 1:13–25

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass

withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

My Observations

Digging Deeper

Interpretation:

Application:

Living Stones

1 Peter 2:1–10

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” 7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,” 8 and “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” They stumble, being

disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

My Observations

Digging Deeper

Interpretation:

Application:

Parallel Passage

In our second portion of this week’s scripture, Peter speaks of coming to Jesus as a living stone (1 Peter 2:4). The Greeks used two different words to describe living. The word *bios* (from which we get biology) described a merely physical existence while *zao* used here (from which we get zoology) describes one completely alive physically, mentally, and spiritually. The word for “coming” means to come with the idea of remaining or describes a permanence of relationship. Together it means going “all in” for the Lord. Compare this thought with the teaching shared with Jesus in His upper room discourse.

An Abiding Relationship
John 15:1–11

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 ”I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. 9 ”As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. 11 ”These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

My Observations

Digging Deeper

Interpretation:

Application:

Take Away / Summary

If one of your friends at work or a neighbor were to ask you what you did on Tuesday, you would tell them you went to a Bible study. The next question would likely be, "What did you learn?" We often summarize an entire athletic contest or a movie in a few brief sentences and easily convey the essence of the event. Now apply these same skills to give a summary of the passage in a sentence or two. Then, in an additional sentence or two, describe what impact this passage will have on how you live.

Memory Verse

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13

Key Words / Phrases

Write out the definition of these key words. You can use a regular dictionary or go to one of the Greek sources listed in the Tool Box at the end of the study. You may also use a concordance to see where else and how the word is used in the Bible.

Not Redeemed with Corruptible Things (1 Peter 1:18)

Foreordained Before the Foundation (1 Peter 1:20)

Tool Box

Step 1: The Bible. Read the passage in a couple of different versions. If you are having trouble understanding a passage, choose a more dynamic version such as *New Living Translation* or *The Message*). To focus in on the exact meaning of a verse, choose a more literal translation such as *New American Standard Bible* or *New King James Version*.

Step 2: Study Tools. Use these to help you dig deeper. Background Information: 1) Unger's Bible Dictionary 2) Bible Dictionaries online at biblestudytools.com and blueletterbible.com. Word Studies: 1) Zodiates' *The Complete Word Study New*

