



SDG Discussion Guide

2 Peter 3:1-13

July 29, 2018

For starters:

Are you a long-range planner, or do you take one day at a time?

When did your parent or someone you looked up to promise you something, for example a gift, and fail to deliver? How did that make you feel?

What is one point from this sermon series over the past two months that you will remember?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group. Provided you can, read them aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the ESV after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. What themes does Peter address here?
2. What "must" the readers first understand (see also 1:20-21)?
3. Why does God's creation of the earth support Peter's contention that he will also destroy the earth (v 10)? Why is this difficult for people to believe?
4. What frustrations does God's patience produce? How is God's patience a benefit (vv 9,15)?
5. How does God's view of time differ from the readers' view? In this context (vv 10-16), is Peter addressing the certainty, the timing or the manner of Christ's coming? How is that an effective inducement to godly living now?
6. How does Peter's reference to Paul also encourage his readers in right behavior (v 15)?
7. What is Peter's final antidote to the false teachers of his day (vv 17-18)?
8. If you were in charge of creating, destroying and redeeming the world, which of these would you take more "time" doing? Why?
9. In some sports, often "the best defense is a good offense," meaning the less the other team has the ball, the less chance they have to score against you. How is Peter's strategy like that in his defense against those who would lead us away from the truth? What can you do to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord"?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw near to you anew in this prayer time. Pause, wait and expect his presence. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Ask him for his insight into what's most important to attend to in your life right now. Go forth encouraged and with a renewed outlook for the week ahead.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).