

Title: End in Mind: Watch Out for Destruction Zones // **Scripture:** 2 Peter 2

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

Peter gives us a sobering warning about teachers with an agenda of lies that seeks to work against the truth that the disciples were instructed to preach and teach. Peter is strongly aware of the danger of false teachers who are hard to recognize. He warns us against the potential of being fooled and exploited by these wicked leaders that deny the return of Jesus and also deny an appointed time of God's judgment. Even more, Peter reminds us that God sees all hearts and is able to guide those who earnestly seek Him and put their hope in Jesus while keeping the false teachers accountable to His full judgment.

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

False teaching is like a dry spring that leads the thirsty to disappointment.

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture (What is the story saying?): How can we recognize a false teacher? (False teachers deny the coming of judgment; downplay the dangers of evil; indulge in desires of the flesh.) Where does false teaching lead? (Destructive lifestyles, “waterless springs” that enslave rather than bring freedom.) What's the truth about judgment? (Jesus will return, set things right, and we should not grow weary of following Jesus—the center and source for wholeness.)

Mirror (Where am I in the story?): Have you ever encountered false teaching? How does Peter's strong language make you feel? What do you think is the best way to avoid false teaching?

Window (How does the story change how I see those around me?): Does Peter's warning bring a sense of fear or a sense of hope and purpose? What is potentially at stake for our neighbors who don't know Jesus? Can we trust God's Spirit to guide us as we do our best to tell the truth about Jesus and the kingdom of God?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Search Me *10 minutes*

Psalm 139:23-24 reads, “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Sit still with God at least twice this week. Pray this prayer and ask God to show you any area where some false teaching may be at work in your life. When God brings something to mind, ask him for to show you the truth that needs to replace that lie.

Change IN // Know Me *5 minutes*

God's fathering heart is to place us in a spiritual family where we can grow and thrive in community. Write down a prayer of thanks to God for truly knowing you and loving you unconditionally. Write down a list of people who really know you. Find a way to thank one or two of those people this week. If there is a broken relationship because of some false teaching, ask God to show you a next step in the journey to reconciliation.

Change OUT // Lead Me *5 minutes*

Who are the people in your life that may not have consistent voices of truth? Make a list of 5 people that you sense God is bringing to your mind and heart to serve in some way. Ask God to lead you in prayer for them and to show you the next step in connecting with them.

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.