



# Scotts Hill Baptist Church

GROWING STRONG IN THE TRUTH // •

SEVEN THINGS BELIEVERS HAVE IN COMMON // 2 PETER 1:1-2 •

## MAIN POINT

Biblical faith unites all believers through a shared identity in Christ—giving us a common past, purpose, position, and perspective rooted in the grace and righteousness of Jesus.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What are some things that typically unite people (teams, families, organizations)?**

**What do you think all Christians—regardless of background—have in common?**

**Why is it easy to focus more on differences than shared identity as believers?**

Peter writes this letter near the end of his life to remind believers of what is true. In a world filled with false teaching and confusion, he points back to what unites every follower of Christ. These truths are not based on personality, background, or maturity—but on Jesus.

## UNDERSTANDING

Use this section to read the Bible together and talk about it.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 PETER 1:1.

**How does Peter introduce himself? Why is that significant?**

**Why might Peter use both names here?**

**What does Peter's past (failures, restoration) teach us about God's grace?**

**What does it mean to be a servant of Christ?**

**Why is humility essential in the Christian life?**

**How does this posture challenge how we view our rights, time, and priorities?**

**What does it mean that faith is something we have "obtained"?**

**Why is it important to understand that faith is a gift, not something we earn?**

**Why would this be encouraging to Peter's audience?**

**How does this truth break down pride, comparison, or insecurity among believers?**

**What does it mean to be made righteous through Jesus?**

**Why is it important that our standing before God is based on Christ's righteousness, not our own?**

**How does this truth give confidence in your relationship with God?**

**ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 PETER 1:2.**

**How are grace and peace multiplied in a believer's life?**

**What role does knowing God play in experiencing these things?**

Faith unites us in what we share—not in what makes us different. Our identity is rooted in Christ, not ourselves.

## APPLICATION

Discuss how to apply what you have studied.

**Which of these "common" truths stands out most to you right now? Why?**

**Do you live with the posture of a servant?**

**Where might pride or self-focus be getting in the way?**

**Are you actively living out your God-given mission?**

**What needs to change for that to become a priority?**

**Do you truly believe your standing before God is based on Christ alone?**

**How does that impact your confidence and daily walk?**

**Are you growing in your knowledge of God?**

**What is one step you can take this week to deepen that relationship?**

# PRAYER

Pray that your group would be united in their identity in Christ.

Ask God to:

**Remind you of the grace that saved you**

**Shape your heart into a humble servant**

**Strengthen your faith and understanding**

**Increase grace and peace as you grow in knowing Him**

# COMMENTARY

| 2 PETER 1:1-11

1:1-2. Peter called himself Simeon Peter, a name not generally used of him (elsewhere only in Acts 15:14). It was more natural for Peter to use the original form of his name rather than a later form. He further identified himself as a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ. He saw himself as a servant submitted to Christ's lordship. As an "apostle," he was one of Christ's divinely ordained, appointed, authoritative representatives in the early church. Though he surely had a specific group of people in mind, Peter named neither specific recipients in his letter nor their precise geographic location. The recipients are described simply as those who have obtained a faith of equal privilege with ours.

The reason for this equality of privilege between Peter's readers and the apostles is the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Through the righteousness that finds its source in Jesus, all believers have equal standing and share the same blessings. Peter described Jesus as both "God and Savior," which is not surprising since elsewhere Jesus is called God (Jn 1:1,18; 20:28; Rm 9:5; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:8). The description of Jesus as "God" in no way denies the Trinity, as if Peter meant to say Jesus is both Father and Son. Peter wished his readers multiplied grace and peace. "Grace" is God's unmerited favor displayed toward sinners who trust Christ for salvation. "Peace" is the sense of well-being and the attendant blessings that a person enjoys because of a right relationship with Christ. Peter emphasized the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord to remind his readers that a person experiences grace and peace only through knowing Christ.