

# SUFFER WELL

A FIELD GUIDE FROM  
1ST & 2ND PETER

## WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

### Week 16: Spotting False Teachers

#### SERIES OVERVIEW

Suffering is a natural consequence of surrender. As we surrender in greater ways to the Lordship of Jesus, we should expect persecution and difficulty especially as we find ourselves living in a negative world. 1st Peter encourages believers to persevere faithfully in light of their present hope and future salvation.

#### 2 PETER OVERVIEW

For a summary, timeline, background, message and purpose of 2nd Peter, go to your [Suffer Well Field Guide page 47](#).

- [Watch Overview](#) (Watch as a group)

#### THE BIG IDEA

It's easy to spot a false teacher. They're arrogant, proud, greedy, selfish, and sexually corrupt. If you see one, run!

#### ICEBREAKER

Pastor James talked about the documentary *The Liver King* to open his sermon. Share about the most interesting documentary you have watched and why. Have you ever watched a documentary that was proven to be a lie? How do we know if a documentary is true?

#### SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 2:10b-22

10b Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. 12 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about

**Scripture continued:** matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, 13 suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. 14 They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! 15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, 16 but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

17 These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. 18 For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

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### GROUP DISCUSSION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth? Refer to your notes in your Suffer Well Field Guide (pg. 62).

When teaching through 2 Peter 2:10b-16, Pastor James explained to us the 3 characteristics of false teachers revealed in these verses. They are arrogant, sexually immoral and greedy. Discuss what these characteristics look and sound like from false teachers today?

What are the opposite characteristics to the list above and are they characteristics of a healthy Biblical teacher of truth? (For example, the opposite of arrogant is humble) What other characteristics would you add to the list about teachers of truth?

Read verses 15-16 and Numbers 22:22-35. Why does Peter compare the greed of false teachers to the story of Balaam and his donkey? How do they relate to each other?

Verse 17 refers to false teachers as a "waterless spring", meaning they leave people wanting what they can't deliver-truth. How is this playing out today as more and more people are realizing the lies of secular humanism, wokeism, progressivism?

Why do you think false teachers target and entice new Christians and how should we respond as a church?

**Go Deeper:** Pastor James shared a key principle from this passage,

"If you abandon Jesus, it proves you were never truly saved."

- Discuss what it looks like to "abandon" Jesus in a way that proves you were never truly saved.
- Have you ever abandoned Jesus? If so, explain the situation & why you returned to Him?
- What is evidence that you are "truly" saved?
- Personally, what is your initial response (emotionally and cognitively) when you hear this principle?

### ↑ Sermon notes to help your discussion. ↑

\*If nothing about your nature has changed, it means you were never saved.

\*People who are truly saved don't quit on Jesus!

\*When Jesus saves you, He changes you. The Holy Spirit lives inside of you.

\*It's impossible for you to go back because you're a different person. (old to new)

\*You persevere in faith until you see him and that proves you're saved.

### PRAYER (In gender based groups)

\*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Pray for each other's ONE.

### Closing Prayer (together as a group)

Lord, we are thankful for a church that preaches Christ alone. Help us to see and avoid false teachers in their arrogance, greed and sexual impurity. May we commit to teaching and discipling those new to faith so they won't fall prey to false teachings and will follow you and you alone Jesus. Amen