

1 Peter 2: Grow Up!
Jim Burgen, Week 1
September 11, 2022

// Bible References

Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Peter 2:1-3; Hebrew 5:12-14.

// Community Question

Have you ever tried to quit smoking, lose weight, or break a bad habit? What happens if you focus just on not doing the activity you are attempting to put aside? What is a better strategy?

Tell about a time where you ate a bunch of junk food in the afternoon and then tried to sit down to a very delicious meal later. What was going through your head while you were at the good meal?

// Discussion Questions

1. Peter tells us to put away malice, deceit, hypocrisy, and slander. Which do you struggle with the most? The least?
2. Why does Peter tell us to I'd like to put away malice, deceit, hypocrisy, and slander? How might this apply to eating junk food and then not being ready for a more nutritious meal?
3. Focusing on something besides the bad habit we are attempting to put aside provides a distraction and points to a better way. What does Peter recommend we focus on while we are putting aside malice, deceit, hypocrisy, and slander? Realistically, how do we do that?
4. Jim told us about the German Christians who sang their hymns louder and louder as the train cars full of Jewish people went by. What is a *current day equivalent* of singing hymns louder and louder as the culture train goes by with our biblical principles, families, and our kids on it? What are some steps to stop the train?
5. We can't go from zero to 100 mph in the spiritual ways of our lives. Growth takes time. Peter uses the metaphor of a baby getting milk to start, and then it advances from there. What are some good first steps we can take, or what are first steps that some in your group have taken which started them on the journey to knowing God better?

6. Read Hebrews 5:12-14. Especially now, good and evil are tangled together by Satan and parsing them out is difficult. The writer of Hebrews states that this separation of good and evil is possible. From the verses you just read, who trains you to discern good from evil and how often does the use of God's word need to take place to obtain that ability?
Who else helps you in finding the truth? (John 16:13)

// Challenge: Take the first step –

Get a Bible. Pastor Burgen recommends the English Standard Version (ESV) Large Print Study Bible. The prices vary significantly from day to day so check either <https://www.amazon.com/> or <https://www.christianbook.com/>

A [normal sized print ESV Study Bible](#) has the same information but does not have as much room in the margins for notes. It has the same information, just more compacted.

Read a Bible. Starting with the book of Mark or John. Keep it simple. There are a multitude of Bible reading plans, but Mark or John is a good place to start. If you buy a study bible, it explains the difficult areas, so that it makes more sense. The Small Group Curriculum this fall will be featuring the book of Mark.