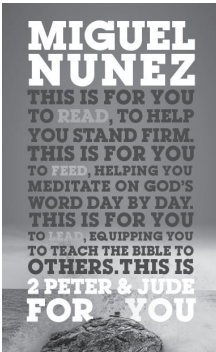




Standing firm

2 PETER AND JUDE

by Miguel Núñez



2 Peter and Jude For You

If you are reading *2 Peter and Jude For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *2 Peter and Jude For You*:

Study One → Ch. 1-2 Study Four → Ch. 5-6
Study Two → Ch. 2-3 Study Five → Ch. 7-8
Study Three → Ch. 4 Study Six → Ch. 8-9

Find out more about *2 Peter and Jude For You* at:
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Standing firm

The Good Book Guide to 2 Peter and Jude

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Introduction: Good Book Guides

Every Bible-study group is different—yours may take place in a church building, in a home or in a cafe, on a train, over a leisurely mid-morning coffee or squashed into a 30-minute lunch break. Your group may include new Christians, mature Christians, non-Christians, moms and tots, students, businessmen or teens. That’s why we’ve designed these *Good Book Guides* to be flexible for use in many different situations.

Our aim in each session is to uncover the meaning of a passage, and see how it fits into the “big picture” of the Bible. But that can never be the end. We also need to appropriately apply what we have discovered to our lives. Let’s take a look at what is included:

- ↔ **Talkabout:** Most groups need to “break the ice” at the beginning of a session, and here’s the question that will do that. It’s designed to get people talking around a subject that will be covered in the course of the Bible study.
- ↓ **Investigate:** The Bible text for each session is broken up into manageable chunks, with questions that aim to help you understand what the passage is about. The **Leader’s Guide** contains **guidance for questions**, and sometimes ☑ additional “follow-up” questions.
- ⋮ **Explore more (optional):** These questions will help you connect what you have learned to other parts of the Bible, so you can begin to fit it all together like a jig-saw; or occasionally look at a part of the passage that’s not dealt with in detail in the main study.
- **Apply:** As you go through a Bible study, you’ll keep coming across **apply** sections. These are questions to get the group discussing what the Bible teaching means in practice for you and your church. 🗣️ **Getting personal** is an opportunity for you to think, plan and pray about the changes that you personally may need to make as a result of what you have learned.
- ↑ **Pray:** We want to encourage prayer that is rooted in God’s word—in line with his concerns, purposes and promises. So each session ends with an opportunity to review the truths and challenges highlighted by the Bible study, and turn them into prayers of request and thanksgiving.

The **Leader’s Guide** and introduction provide historical background information, explanations of the Bible texts for each session, ideas for **optional extra** activities, and guidance on how best to help people uncover the truths of God’s word.

Why study 2 Peter and Jude?

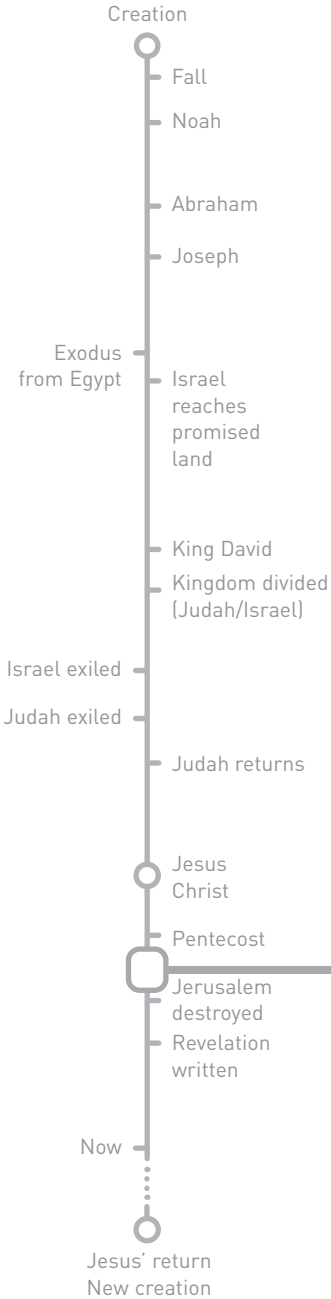
Over recent years we have witnessed the fall of a significant number of Christian leaders. Many of these leaders were running well at some point in their lives, but then they stumbled and fell into serious sin. And this is something that could happen to any one of us—church leaders and church members alike—however well we are running today.

Peter and Jude, two leaders in the early church, knew that firsthand. The brothers and sisters they were writing to had fallen under the influence of false teachers who were sexually immoral, financially greedy and power-hungry. A terrible combination! The danger was that through the wrong teaching and immoral example of these leaders, the believers would fall away from faith themselves.

In the two letters we will study in this guide, Peter and Jude both show a deep concern and an intense sense of urgency about the future of the believing communities they are addressing. They write to help their readers to stand firm. Their words are as relevant today as they were in the 1st century.

When it comes to our Christian walk, remaining on track is, on one level, the responsibility of each one of us. Peter says, “Make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble” (2 Peter 1:10). But at another level, finishing well is the work of God. Jude acknowledges that God is the one, in the end, who can keep us from stumbling (Jude v 24). It is through pursuing him and throwing ourselves on his mercy that we will make it to the end of the race—to be presented before his glorious throne “without fault and with great joy” (v 24).

It is important, as you begin, to approach these letters as being fully inspired by God, which makes them inerrant and infallible; to pray for illumination of your understanding; to adopt a humble and teachable attitude; and to decide to obey their content. God will then bless your study of his word.



BIBLE TIMELINE

Where do the books of 2 Peter and Jude fit into the whole story of God's word?

2 PETER AND JUDE 60s AD

1

2 Peter 1:1-15

HOW TO KEEP FROM STUMBLING



talkabout

1. What do you think it means to stand firm—or not stand firm—as a Christian?



investigate

 **Read 2 Peter 1:1-15**

2. Look at Peter's opening greetings (v 1-2). What has enabled his readers to gain faith, grace, and peace?

DICTIONARY

Apostle (v 1): one of those directly appointed by the risen Christ to teach about him.

Corruption (v 4): decay.

In increasing measure (v 8): more and more.

3. God hasn't just saved us—what else has he made possible, and how (v 3-4)?

4. How do verses 3-4 motivate us to pursue godliness?



explore more

optional

Hebrews 11 gives examples of Old Testament heroes who trusted in the promises of God and, as a result, did not waver in their faith.

▶ **Read Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19**

What promise did Abraham receive (v 8)?

What did that lead him to do (v 9)?

What else was Abraham able to do because of trusting God's promises (v 17-19)?

What do you admire about this type of faith?

5. Peter's readers have faith already. But what else does he want them to have (v 5-7)? What does each of these things mean, do you think?

- Why is it important to pursue those things (v 8)?



apply

6. Practically, what will be the effect of these virtues?



getting personal

Meditate on where you are regarding the virtues mentioned by Peter in verses 5-7. What are some areas for growth? What would be some signs that you had grown in those areas?

investigate

7. If someone doesn't pursue godliness, what does that imply about them (v 9)?

8. In what sense do you think that living a godly life serves to "confirm" the fact that we've been called and chosen by God (v 10)?



- What will be the end result of having been called by God and having lived a godly life (v 11)?

9. Why is Peter so determined to write this letter now (v 12-15)?

- Which words and phrases express this determination and sense of urgency?

10. Peter's readers know the truth—so why do you think he wants to remind them of it?

11. In today's passage as a whole, what's the relationship between knowledge of God and godly living?



- How would you sum up what God does and what we are called to do?



getting personal

Some people are so confident in God's forgiveness that they end up not making much effort to fight sin. Some try desperately to be perfect on their own, fearing that they are not really saved. Which do you tend toward? How does this passage challenge or encourage you?



apply

12. What steps can you take to remind yourself of the truth? How will this help you to stand firm in your faith?

- What is one thing you could do to help someone else stand firm in their faith this week?



pray

Spend time listing the truths of the gospel and praising God for them. Pray for one another, asking for God's help in standing firm and living fruitful lives for his glory.

