



# **New Testament Survey**

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# Group Exercises: Leader Guide

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Welcome to Our Daily Bread University's (ODBU) New Testament survey course. In this course, ODBU provides the content of the New Testament survey through lectures and related study materials. On the days when you meet with the students who are participating in the course, you, as the students' leader, will encourage them to interact meaningfully with the content they have already taken in. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with some ideas for activities and exercises that will challenge the students to engage and interact with the teaching.

These exercises and activities have been provided to us by Dr. Sid Buzzell, former Chairman of the Theology Department at Colorado Christian University. He used ODBU's course content in his teaching of both Old and New Testament survey to hundreds of college students each year. The suggestions he makes in this guide have already been tried in classrooms and proven to be successful teaching/learning tools. You now can benefit from his creative thinking and from his experience.

In addition to using Dr. Buzzell's materials, we want to encourage you to think of some exercises that will be unique to your personality and teaching style. Here are some general ideas of types of activities you might develop:

- 1. Provide additional information on the Bible book or topic you are discussing with your students. As you view the ODBU lessons the students are completing, you may think of additional information that you want to cover in your meetings using a short discussion. Feel free to add material as you desire, but keep in mind that you should allow time for students to interact with each other and, with your oversight and involvement, to engage with and apply the information they are learning.**
- 2. Discussion. Some topics lend themselves to open discussion on a particular topic led by the teacher. Often these discussions can be initiated by questions the students may have as they study the biblical text.**
- 3. Small-group discussion. You might break the group of students into smaller learning teams to discuss and/or debate on one of the topics or to share with one another their own exegesis and application of a passage or question.**
- 4. Case studies/problem-solving groups. You might give students a problem to solve or an example (fictional or actual) that will encourage discussion and application of the concepts taught in the lesson.**

Be creative and innovative. This kind of teaching is an opportunity to try new ideas, which will encourage students to be actively involved in learning. By the time they meet with the group, you know they have taken in the course material. In the group meetings, the real assimilation of the material begins, and there is almost no limit on ways in which that engagement with the text can occur. So enjoy this course as you use the activities in this guide and as you develop your own style of interacting with students that will encourage their lifelong study of the Bible.

# NT227 James–Jude: Letters to Everyone: General and Johannine Epistles

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## 227:1 James and 1 Peter–Growing Through the Tough Times

### Group Discussion: Doing Good

Review the following excerpt from Dr. Blomberg’s lecture:

As we think back on James, two themes of contemporary significance loom large. One is the whole theme of Christian stewardship and the use of one’s money. As we have noted in previous occasions, in the parables of Luke and 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, a major aspect of new teaching, certainly more prominent than in many Christian contexts today, is what we might call “lordship salvation.”

Unless Jesus is Lord of all, He is not Lord at all, and that includes being Lord of our pocketbooks . . . another of James’ themes [is] the need to fight and denounce injustice as we see it in our world today. [Though some have] erred in making this a violent revolt, nevertheless . . . proper concern that the social elements as well as spiritual elements of Christianity not be divorced from one another is extremely appropriate.

Think for a few minutes about the teaching Dr. Blomberg presents in his summary above. Then respond to the following questions:

1. Which option do you think is more biblical: To care for our own Christian community first and separate ourselves from the world’s issues so we can live our lives in peace or to engage our world even if it means being misunderstood and opposed?
2. Is the issue more complicated? Can we be obedient to Scripture and keep certain select issues to ourselves and also speak out on other issues? If so, what are some of each kind of issue? When and how should we engage our culture, and when is it better to let our culture go its own way?
3. Given the fact that people are wired differently, are you personally more comfortable with engaging and even confronting society or with creating more of a monastic approach and retreating from social involvement with the world? This is not a question of what you believe is right or wrong, but of your personal comfort level.

### Small-Group Discussion: Temptation’s Lure

James 1:2-4, 12-15:

*12 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. . . . 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by*

*evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*

In groups of two, discuss the following:

1. When we are tempted, where can we not say the temptation comes from?
2. Where does temptation come from?
3. Using the bulleted questions, each of you is to take one of the “temptations” below and describe the process from “lust” to “death.”
  - a. Telling a lie about someone.
  - b. Cheating - in business, in an athletic competition, or on a test.
    - What is the “lust” that’s involved?
    - How does that “carry us away” and “entice” us?
    - When does that lust “conceive”? At what moment does that happen?
    - What does it mean that when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death?

## **227:2 2 Peter–Jude: Little Letters with Big Messages**

### **Discussion: Two Experts Teach Us How to Grow Through Suffering**

James and Peter both helped their readers deal with suffering. As an informed Christian, you will undoubtedly be asked for advice and encouragement from others when they encounter pain. Read James’ and Peter’s advice to suffering Christians. Apply your exegetical principles to both passages and summarize what each is saying about our response to “Various Trials” (James) and “Fiery Ordeals” (Peter).

James 1:1–5:

*1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

Summarize James’ advice in your own words.

1 Peter 4:12–19:

*12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name*

*of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*

Summarize Peter’s advice in your own words.

Now apply what you have learned: A close friend just told you that her mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. She is worried and hurting for her mother, her family and herself. Her mother is a new Christian. She called you last night with this news and is going to call back tonight. Your friend has asked your group to help her with the following questions:

1. Should Christians deal with suffering any differently than they would if they weren’t Christian? If no, where is God when we hurt? If yes, how, specifically does a Christian process the pain of suffering?
2. What does the Bible say about how your friend and/or her mother should actually respond? Does the Bible tell us things we should actually do?

# NT228 Revelation: The Book of Revelation: The End and the Beginning

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## **228:1 Revelation: What Is the Book of Revelation and What's It About?**

### **Written Exercise: Your View of Jesus**

1. Read Philip Yancey's short presentation entitled "The Final Word."
2. Respond to his question: "Does your image of Jesus involve the image given in this chapter?" by answering the following:  
In a well-conceived paragraph for each question, describe how you view Jesus.
  - a. Theologically: How do you define and/or describe Jesus the Christ?
  - b. Personally: How does the Person Jesus influence you on a day-to-day basis?

## **228:2 Revelation: Its Content and Meaning**

### **Written Exercise: The Final Question**

Read, weigh, consider. Then choose one of these two possible actions:

1. Accept Jesus the Lord and Savior as your Lord. Then write a thank-you to Him for giving you both the honor and responsibility of belonging to Him.
2. Write your honest statement about your alternative way of relating to Jesus Christ.