

...In the Last Days

a study in 2 Peter



TRANSFORM™ WEEKEND SERIES

Leader Guide

...In the Last Days: A Study in 2 Peter—Leader Guide
Published by Precept Ministries of Reach Out, Inc.
P. O. Box 182218
Chattanooga, TN 37422

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB) © Copyright The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995. Used by permission.

Copyright © 2011 Precept Ministries International

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

...In the Last Days

a study in 2 Peter

TRANSFORM™ WEEKEND SERIES

Leader Guide


...In the Last Days

“

Life is short, God's way of
encouraging a bit of focus.

”

—Robert Brault



LESSON 1

TAKE A GOOD LOOK

Have you ever thought about the end of the world? What about the end of your own life? It seems like there are an endless number of books and television shows with different opinions about how and when things will happen.

Are these questions even important to you, a young person? Well sure they are! Why? Because how you respond to them will determine how you live right now; and just to be honest, young people are known for concentrating on what pleases them right now. As Christians, we should live with a view of the future in mind. So if we want to know how to live in these times, we must be able to recognize the days that we're in.



CENTRAL QUESTION

Central Question for Lesson 1:

How can we tell if we're in the last days? How important is it to number our days?

Observe the text:

When do the last days begin? Read the verses in Hebrews and 1 Peter below and discuss the questions that follow with your group.

This study is designed not only to put your students into the Bible for themselves but also to give them some simple and practical Bible study tools they can use anytime they study God's Word. One of the first skills in observing the text is reading with a purpose by asking questions we call the "5 W's and an H" questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Encourage your students to interrogate the text with these questions to find answers every time they read Scripture.

LEADER NOTE

Hebrews 1:1-2

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

In the Last Days

2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

1 Peter 1:20

20 For He [Jesus] was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you



INVESTIGATE

Investigate assignments focus on questioning the text to pull out as much information as possible, like a good interrogator would. By asking simple questions like *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* (the 5 Ws and an H), you will learn more from your personal times of Bible study!

Who?...What?...When?...Where?...Why?...How?...

LEADER NOTE

In the Last Days was written to fit a discussion environment. The commentary and questions that accompany each portion of Scripture are there to help you, not control you. Use these tools where you need the support, but feel free to use personal illustrations and questions whenever they fit your discussion better. Encouraging students to discuss the material takes the pressure off you as a teacher and puts the focus on the Scripture itself!

1. What did you learn about the last days from these verses?

2. What is one sign of the last days according to both passages?

Leader Guide

3. When do you think the last days began?

4. When do you believe they will be over?

Observe the text:

Paul told Timothy what the last days will look like and then showed him what to do. As you read the following verses in 1 and 2 Timothy, underline *later times / last days / time*.

Another observation skill is marking key words, words that are usually repeated and unlock the meaning of a text. These help show the subject and then theme of a book. From key words we can make lists, as you will see in the next exercise. Mark them in a distinctive way with colors or symbols—here we will just underline them.

LEADER
NOTE

1 Timothy 4:1-5

- 1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
- 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,
- 3 *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.
- 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;
- 5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

In the Last Days

- 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,
- 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
- 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

- 1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:
- 2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
- 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.



INVESTIGATE

Who?...What?...When?...Where?...Why?...How?...

LEADER NOTE

The students are about to make a list concerning our key word (phrase)—a simple and effective way to focus on important characters and other subjects in the text. It's a good idea for you to help them make their first list or two, and then challenge them to do the rest on their own. Once you finish with the list, discuss it with the group. The questions below are there if you need them!

Leader Guide

1. Use the chart below to write down what you learn about the last days. What are they like? What happens in the last days? We did the first one in each passage for you!

The Last Days
<p>1 Timothy 4:1 - some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.</p>
<p>2 Timothy 3:1 - difficult times will come.</p>
<p>2 Timothy 4:3 - they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.</p>

2. What did Paul tell Timothy to do in these times?

Observe the text:

In this next passage, Paul reminds the Christians in Rome that they are to respect earthly government because it is established by God. He then describes how we are to live in subjection to the government. Read Romans 13:8-14 and mark *love* with a heart and underline the *references to time* as you observe when they were living and how they were to respond to those around them.

Romans 13:8-14

- 8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.
- 9 For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”
- 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.
- 11 *Do* this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.
- 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.
- 13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.
- 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.



INVESTIGATE

Who?...What?...When?...Where?...Why?...How?...

1. Make a list of all you learned about love in this passage

Love
v.8 - owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.
v.9 -
v.10 -

2. Why does Paul command his readers to love the way he describes here?

3. How are they supposed to respond in these days?

Leader Guide

4. What does this look like practically?
5. According to verse 14, what does Paul command his readers to do? How do we do this?
6. How should these truths affect your day-to-day life and decision making?

Observe the text:

Read the following verses in Psalms. Circle the word *days*.

Psalm 39:4-6

- 4 “LORD, make me to know my end
And what is the extent of my days;
Let me know how transient I am.
- 5 “Behold, You have made my days *as* handbreadths,
And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight;
Surely every man at his best is a mere breath. Selah.
- 6 “Surely every man walks about as a phantom;
Surely they make an uproar for nothing;
He amasses *riches* and does not know who will gather them.

Psalm 90:12

12 So teach us to number our days,
That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.



INVESTIGATE

Who?...What?...When?...Where?...Why?...How?...

1. How do both of these prayers begin? What do they ask God for?
2. How is a man's life described in these verses?
3. Keeping his description in mind, what is the psalmist asking for?
4. What does "number our days" mean? According to Psalm 90:12, what results from understanding this?
5. How should the fact that the days are short affect the way you live? How should it impact your decisions?

Leader Guide

6. Do you think the average young person lives with this in mind?
How would you describe your generation?
7. Take some time in your group to discuss whether you are living this truth out and how you can apply what you have learned so far.

When I was a youth pastor just a few years ago, a student from my church got sick. This young man was a football and baseball player at the local high school, a good athlete at just sixteen years old. One night we were playing basketball together. Two mornings later I was sitting at his bedside at a hospital in Atlanta where doctors had given him a 30% chance to live. He had a serious infection from common but dangerous bacteria that can get into the bloodstream from even minor cuts and scratches.

This story has a good-news, bad-news ending. The good news is that God caused this young man to live. The bad news is that he hasn't humbled himself before the God who saved his life and loves him, hasn't confessed his need for a Savior. Despite his story, he still chooses not to number his days.

CENTRAL QUESTION

Central Question for Lesson 1:

How can we tell if we're in the last days? How important is it to number our days?



FAITH WORKOUT

Take a few minutes to write down the kind of person you want to be. Include some areas in your life that you know God desires to work in, to change. Ask Him to help you in these areas today and every day, knowing that our days are numbered and there won't always be a tomorrow.



WRAP THAT UP!

The biblical reason for studying the Bible is to know God. The more you know Him, the more you'll look and act like Christ. You will be a better picture of His love to those around you. That's what it means to apply what you learn. There are two ways to do this: believe and change your behavior.

Sometimes we get so busy looking for practical applications (What do I do with this?) that we miss the importance of what we believe. Can you see the importance of knowing that you're in the last days and you won't live here forever? If you **TRULY BELIEVE** these things, your actions will change accordingly.

NOTES...
