

## WEEK 2

# GOD IS

## A THREE-WEEK SERIES

### ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### 2 PETER 3:8 - 18

1. Do you consider yourself to be a patient person? For many of us the likely answer is “sometimes”. When are some times where you’re good at being patient? When are some times you’re bad at being patient? Do you do a good job being patient with your kids? Why is it important to be patient?
2. It’s been said that if you can accept the first four words of the bible as true, “In the beginning God...” you can believe everything that comes after it. Do you think this is true? Why or why not? Why might it be difficult for us to imagine an eternal being and how might this affect our view of time?
3. If God has a perspective of time what we lack should we ask Him to do things on a schedule that’s most convenient for us? Should we ask God to give us His perspective? What are some examples of God being patient with us that we incorrectly perceive as God being “slow”?
4. Have you ever heard someone pray, “Lord come quickly” when receiving bad news? Reread 2 Peter 3:9. Why might Peter disagree with the desire for Jesus to return quickly. Think for a moment about if Christ had returned 15 years ago (May 24, 2015). If you can, name someone who would have perished on that date, but would not perish if Christ returned today. How should the perspective Peter provides in v. 9 change our behavior?
5. Sometimes it feels like the Earth is eternal doesn’t it. Our planet has been here longer than we have. It was here when we were born and it will most likely be here when we die. People seem fleeting when compared to the history of the entire world.

Peter says the world and all of the things done on it will be burned up or dissolved. We are eternal. Our world is not. Does that perspective help you be more patient? Does it help you understand God better? How is patience connected to grace?

6. How does Peter tell us we should wait for the return of Christ? What does it mean to be diligent?

7. Think of what you know about Peter. Think of what you know about Paul. What do you know about their relationship? Reread 2 Peter 3:15. How do Peter’s words about Paul affect you? Do they seem significant or insignificant?

## STUDENTS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. God promises his return, but we do not know when that will be. Describe what you think it might be like when the Lord returns. Try to give as many details as possible.
2. Scripture says that one day to God is like 1,000 years to us. Why do you think God is waiting so long to return instead of coming back right now?
3. You've probably been asked the question before, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" This question is similar to the one asked in 2 Peter saying, "What kind of people *ought* you to be?" This is a tough question because it challenges/threatens who you currently are and seeks to influence who you are becoming. The difference is, we cannot be a specific person when we grow up until we are who God wants us to be in the life stages before that. Who do you believe God is calling you to be in the next **6-12 months?**
4. God is calling us to wait patiently for his arrival, yet he is also not calling us to do nothing in the meantime. What do you think it means to accept the role that God has designed for you in this life as we await his return?

### **This Week's Challenge:**

- YOU have a role to play during this time of waiting for the Lord's return! First of all, that is incredible in itself! Write down in detail:
  - What you feel like your role is
  - Why that role is uniquely designed for you
  - Who you is helping you better understand your role
  - How God is leading you to fulfill your role
  - What step he is calling you to take next in your role
- Whatever your next step is, try to take it this week! You WILL experience God's presence in it!

## KIDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. How many times a day (or in a week) do you think your parents ask you to be patient? Why is this so hard for us? Why is it hard to wait?
2. Can you remember a time you had to wait what seemed to be THE LONGEST TIME EVER? Why do you think it felt so long? What is something that you think is worth waiting for in your life or day to day?
3. Have you every thought about how patient God is with you? I think this is hard to remember. We struggle to wait on God's timing for things. We like knowing when and how things will happen. How has Peter's letter helped you understand that God's timing is better than our timing?
4. Peter reminds us that God's patience means salvation. Why? Jesus SAVES! And the more time we have here on earth, the more people have a chance to know Jesus and the love that He has for us. Is there someone in your life (a friend or family member?) who you want to tell about Jesus? While we wait on Jesus to return, now's the chance to share about His GREAT LOVE!

### **Family Activities:**

- **Preschool: NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, PARENTS!** You've seen the toddler challenge going around. Do this with your toddler or preschooler. Put something that they love in front of them and go away and have them wait to eat it (or play with it) until you get back. Talk about how God asks us to be patient and wait on His return! IT WILL BE WORTH IT!
- **Elementary: Have your family play GO BANANAS!** The whole family is trying to get a banana to a certain location. The trick is that you can't move your feet when you have the banana and you have to pass it to other family members while using only your chin. If the banana drops, your family starts over. When you're finished talk about why patience was necessary for this game. How can we remember to stay patient?