

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**

-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Memory Work:**

**“The LORD is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)**

 **Hook:**

**Looking Forward (Discussion).** ,  You will need:  
a calendar for the current year

Ask the students: What does it mean to look forward to something? What specific things do they look forward to. Refer to the calendar for ideas—holidays, birthdays, etc. Note these things that students look forward to on the calendar. Remind the students of upcoming church events for their age group and put them on the calendar. Ask the students if any of them are looking forward to the return of a family member who is away.

Read 2 Peter 3:12-14. Three times Peter mentions looking forward to something. Ask the students:

1. What is he talking about?
2. Can we put this event on our calendar? Why not?
3. How do we know it will really happen?
4. What if someone told you that next Christmas would not really come?

Debrief: Explain to them that's how some of the Christians felt because people (Peter calls them scoffers) were saying that Jesus would not really come back as He promised. In 2 Peter chapter 3, Peter assures them (and us) that Jesus will surely return as He said He would. Why is Jesus waiting?

**Sudden Change (Activity/Discussion).** ,  You will need:

- a small child swimming pool
- supplies to build a model neighborhood, park, or city setting
- Lego people
- micro-machine or matchbox cars
- a fan or water for a staged disaster: flood, earthquake, tornado

Have the students build a model neighborhood, park, or city in the center of the swimming pool. While they are working on their model scene explain to them that in the days of Noah, people were living as though nothing was going to happen that would abruptly change their lives. We all know Noah did believe God and built his ark and saved his family and the animals. All the “scoffers” however were washed away in the flood because they didn't believe.

Ask the students what a “scoffer” is. A scoffer is someone who makes fun of or says critical, rude things about things they don't understand.

We all know that the world can change very fast because of natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, or wars. The teacher should now stage the disaster. Be prepared for the students' reactions. When they act surprised, ask them if they thought the people in the scene were ready for the disaster?

Tell the students that in today's Bible Adventure Peter talks about the scoffers in his time and scoffers in our time who say that Jesus is not coming back. They think because the world hasn't changed in the past, it won't in the future.



**Be Spotless and Live Like Christ (Object Lesson).** 🍷, 🦋 For this lesson, you will need:

several plates that appear clean, but have hard crusted food on them  
glasses that appear clean but have lots of water spots and even a lipstick stain  
silverware that appears clean but has food stuck on it  
small dishpan bucket with hot soapy water  
a few dish towels to wash and dry the dishes  
dish drain rack to put clean dishes onto

Tell the students that when you were putting the dishes away, you noticed that some of them didn't get very clean, so you have to rewash them. Show them the dishes, glasses and silverware. Ask the students:

1. Would you be willing to use these? *(NO!!)*
2. Why not? *(Because they're DIRTY.)*
3. Have you ever sat down to eat dinner or gone to a restaurant and found that your silverware, plate or glass was still dirty like these?
4. What did you do? *(Asked for a clean replacement.)*

Tell them that this reminds me of our lesson today. People don't want to use dirty dishes, and God will not accept sinners into heaven. In order to enter heaven, we must accept Christ as our Savior and ask Him to cleanse us of our sins. God will not let sin (which is dirty) enter heaven, just like I won't put dirty dishes away in my cupboard.

Tell the students that in today's lesson, they will learn how Peter reminds believers that Christ will return. We can count on this, and that's why we need to always be ready like He'll return today. Right now is the only time you have for sure. So live holy and godly lives on a daily basis. Believers aren't perfect; we make mistakes too. However, we can ask God to forgive us and He will wash us sparkling clean, just like my dishes. That's how we make sure we're ready.



**Thief in the Night (Role-Play).** 🍷, 🦋 This is a short drama for two characters. Perform it to illustrate how the day of the Lord will come, suddenly and unexpectedly, **2PET03.GF1 Pgs. 1 & 2.**



**The Past is the Key to the Future (Color Page/Discussion).** 🍷 Peter warned that in the last days (the time between the first and second coming of Christ), scoffers would say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation" 2 Peter 3:4. Ask the students the following questions:

1. Have you ever heard anyone say something like this?
2. Have you heard people say that the earth has evolved slowly over millions of years according to natural laws without any miracles or events that would require action from God?

In verse 5 Peter says, "But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and with water. By water also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed." Have the students color these pictures of two events which prove that people who say everything goes on the same are wrong, **2PET03.GF2.**



## Book:

### Presentation Ideas –



**God's Word Cannot Be Extinguished (Object Lesson/Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 This lesson is to teach: No matter how hard man tries, God's Word can never be extinguished, 2 Peter 3-7.

You will need:

- one birthday candle
- one trick birthday candle (when you blow it out, it relights). Party supply stores often carry the trick candles which are typically the shape of a birthday candle
- something to hold the candles in, either two lumps of PlayDoh or two muffins with a candleholder pushed in the top
- one cup of water (just in case things get carried away)

Explain to the students that we can count on God to do what He says in the Bible. Our world is always changing, but there is one thing that never changes and that's God's Word. The Bible is secure and reliable. You can trust God's Word forever. *Now light the candles.* Ask two students to come up and blow out the candles then return to their seats. *When the one candle relights act surprised.* Have another student come up and blow the one candle out. Maybe they can do a better job than the first person.

Ask the following questions:

1. Hmm, what seems to be the problem? (*It won't stay blown out.*)
2. Why can't they seem to blow out this candle? (*It's a trick candle.*)
3. How is this candle different than the other candle? (*It couldn't be extinguished.*)

Debrief: This is a lot like the Bible. Over the years, some people have tried to stop the message of Jesus by teaching people lies about Jesus and the Bible. In some countries they have made it illegal to own a Bible. Peter experienced this type of pressure, and that's why He needed to remind the people that God's Word can never be extinguished. Christ will return, we can count on it.

### Bible Adventure for 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades –

Have you ever had someone you dearly love go away on a long trip? Didn't you just long for the day when this person would return? Perhaps you marked the days off on your calendar or prepared a special gift as a surprise when he or she finally made it home. Whatever the case, you probably could think of little else but seeing your loved one again. This is how it should be for God's people as they look forward to the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our eager anticipation should affect everything we think, say and do.

The apostle Peter certainly longed for the return of Christ. However, there was a big problem in the churches to which he was ministering. Remember those false teachers Peter warned his readers about in his letter? Guess what they were teaching? They were trying to convince people that Jesus would not come back again like He said He would. Even though the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament apostles taught the same message about Jesus' Second Coming, these "scoffers" (as Peter called them) made fun of this precious truth. They jeered, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Everything has been going along the same way for thousands of years. Why should anyone believe Jesus is going to suddenly appear on the scene and judge mankind? It's not going to happen!"

In 2 Peter 3, Peter called on true believers not to buy into this false teaching. He explained that even though it seemed like Jesus was taking a long time to fulfill His promise to return, God's timing is not like our timing. From God's eternal perspective, one day is like 1,000 years and 1,000 years is like one day. Since unbelievers will be judged for their sin when Jesus comes back, God is patiently waiting for people to repent and turn to Jesus for salvation. He knows exactly who will be saved and He is holding off destroying the world until they come to Him.

However, Peter made it clear that there will indeed come a day when the world will be judged. It will be sudden and unexpected like a thief breaking into a home in the middle of the night. Just as no one knows when a thief is going to strike, so no one knows when the Lord will return. But when He does, it will be terrible for those who do not belong to Him. The entire heavens and earth will be burned up with intense fire. Then God will build a glorious new heaven and earth where He will reign and believers will joyfully

worship Him forever and ever!

Peter then went on to ask a very important question. How should believers live in light of Christ's return? The answer is simple—they need to live as holy and godly people. They need to dig into the Word, know it and obey it! This shows that a person is genuinely saved and gives confidence that one will not be judged with the rest of the world. Peter urged his readers to cling tightly to the truth of the Bible and to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (3:18). Then they would be able to stand firm and reject the lies of the false teachers.

If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready for Him? Many people, even in the church, claim to believe that Jesus will return and yet they do not live like it. Rather than living wholeheartedly for the Lord, they live for themselves and all the pleasure and comfort they can get. This is a terrible choice because by doing this, they are risking their own faith! Peter taught that those who are truly saved can hardly wait to see Jesus in person and live holy lives to please Him. Do you long to see Jesus more than anything else? Do you live a holy and godly life that gives you confidence that you truly belong to Him? No one knows when Christ will return so make sure where you stand and eagerly anticipate His return!

#### Aim Questions

1. **Who wrote the book of 2 Peter and where did he write this book?** *(The apostle Peter wrote it from the city of Rome in a prison.)*
2. **What specifically did Peter want his readers to understand in 2 Peter? What's the theme?** *(Truth confronts false teachers)*
3. **What were the false teachers teaching in the church?** *(That Jesus was not going to return a second time)*
4. **What is Peter's response to their false teaching?** *(God's eternal perspective of time is different from our limited earthly view of time, and God is patient because not all who have been called to Him are saved yet.)*
5. **How can a Christian be ready for the Lord's return?** *(By living a godly and holy life.)*



#### Look:



**Coming Attractions (Worksheet).** 🦋, 🦋 Reinforce 2 Peter chapter 3 by filling in these multiple choice questions. Make sure students notice that there are TWO correct answers to each question, **2PET03.GF3**. Answer Key: 1—A and C; 2—B and D; 3—B and C; 4—A and D; 5—C and D; 6—A and B; 7—B and D; 8—C and D; 9—A and C; 10—B and C; 11—A and D.



**Krazy Keywords (Worksheet).** 🦋, 🦋 Have the students unscramble keywords from today's lesson to understand wholesome thinking. Encourage them to read the Scriptures to find the words, **2PET03.GF4**. Answers: Patient, Salvation, Ready, Christ, Spotless, Blameless, Ungodliness, Judgment, Promises, Repentance.



**Fallen Phrases (Worksheet).** 🦋 Practice the memory verse with the students until most have memorized it. Then have them try to complete this worksheet without their Bible's or other helps, **2PET03.GF5**.



**Look for His Coming (Maze).** 🦋, 🦋 Have the students complete the maze for Bill so he will find his way to being ready for Christ's return, **2PET03.GF6 Pg. 1**. Answer key: **2PET03.GF6 Pg. 2**.



**Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🦋 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2PET03.GF7**.



**Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🦋, 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **2PET03.GF8 Pgs. 1 & 2**.



**2 Peter 3:9 (Memory Verse Song).** 🦋 Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.



## Took:



**Look Forward to His Coming (Craft).** 🦋, 🦋 To make this calendar/date book, each student will need:

2PET03.GF9 Pgs. 1 & 2 printed on regular paper  
2PET03.GF9 Pg. 3 copied onto cardstock  
scissors  
glue  
coloring crayons or markers (optional)  
standard size stapler

Have the students follow the directions below to complete their crafts:

1. Cut apart the calendar pages on pages 1 and 2 on double lines.
2. Put them in order and staple them together at the top.
3. On page 3, fold the dotted lines outward. The printed sections will form the inside and outside of the date book's cover.
4. Put some glue between them.
5. Now put some glue on the back of the stack of calendar pages and secure it inside the date book cover on the blank section. The stapled edge should be just below the fold.
6. Color if time allows.
7. As you work, discuss what the verses say about how we should live as we 'look forward to His coming.'



**How Should We Live? (Bible Hunt/Worksheet).** 🦋, 🦋 Divide the class into small groups. Have them compete to look up the verses and fill in this worksheet as a review of first and second Peter. Each statement answers the question, "How should we live?", **2PET03.GF10**. Answers:

- |  |                 |                      |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. controlled                          | 13. fear        | 25. alert            |
| 2. holy                                | 14. answer      | 26. goodness         |
| 3. love                                | 15. conscience  | 27. knowledge        |
| 4. malice, deceit                      | 16. clear       | 28. self-control     |
| 5. crave                               | 17. love        | 29. perseverance     |
| 6. desires                             | 18. hospitality | 30. godliness        |
| 7. good                                | 19. surprised   | 31. kindness         |
| 8. submit                              | 20. rejoice     | 32. love             |
| 9. servants                            | 21. ashamed     | 33. godly            |
| 10. respect                            | 22. good        | 34. blameless, peace |
| 11. sympathetic, compassionate, humble | 23. humility    | 35. guard            |
| 12. evil                               | 24. cares       | 36. grow             |



**Elements (Color Page/Discussion).** 🦋 Hand out to the students **2PET03.GF11 Pgs. 1 & 2**. Read and discuss this non-fiction story as a gentle way to explore the subject of final judgment and the destruction of the world by fire. Refer the students to the diagram throughout the reading. (Older students may know some of this basic information. If so, review it in discussion with them).

## **Thief in the Night**

This is a short drama for two characters.

#1: A news reporter (dressed in professional clothes) holding a microphone which he moves back and forth between himself and the homeowner as they speak.

#2: A homeowner (man or woman) who has just been robbed (dressed in bathrobe and slippers).

Reporter: Thank you, Nadene; I'm here LIVE at the scene of a robbery that took place one-half hour ago. It seems that thousands of dollars in cash and several thousand dollars in valuables were taken. I have here with me the man (woman) of the house that was robbed tonight... Sir (Ma'am), can you tell me, why did you let the thief into your house tonight?

Homeowner: I didn't let him in. He broke in through the window—that one over there. (*pointing*)

Reporter: That's a shame. When you saw the robber drive up, did you try asking him nicely not to break your window?

Homeowner: I didn't see him drive up, I was sleeping.

Reporter: Don't you think this would have been a good night to stay awake?

Homeowner: Maybe, but when I went to bed, I didn't know all this was going to happen.

Reporter: Oh, right. Now tell me, what was taken?

Homeowner: The first thing I noticed was that the painting above the fire place was missing.

Reporter: Why did you leave the artwork in plain sight?

Homeowner: I like to look at it. That's what artwork is for.

Reporter: But it's valuable and if it had been hidden, the thief might not have taken it.

Homeowner: But I DIDN'T KNOW THE THIEF WAS COMING.

Reporter: Oh, right. Now, didn't you tell the police that some money is also missing?

Homeowner: Yes, I don't know the exact amount, but it was several thousand dollars.

Reporter: I don't understand this. You were about to be robbed, and yet you didn't count your money so you could be sure how much you had.

Homeowner: *(growing impatient)* I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS GOING TO BE STOLEN!

Reporter: Oh... Right. Well, tell me, just what happened here tonight?

Homeowner: Well, I heard the noise of the window breaking but sometimes our cat knocks things off the table and I remembered leaving a glass there, so I figured the cat broke the glass and I would clean it up in the morning.

Reporter: Did you call the police?

Homeowner: *(sarcastically)* No, I don't usually report it when my cat breaks a glass.

Reporter: Too bad. If the police would have been called sooner, they might have caught the thief. Anyway, what happened next?

Homeowner: Well, while I was still awake, I heard footsteps, and they certainly didn't belong to a cat. So at that point, I came down stairs to see what was happening. It was then that I saw the burglar, and realized I was being robbed.

Reporter: Did you try to stop him?

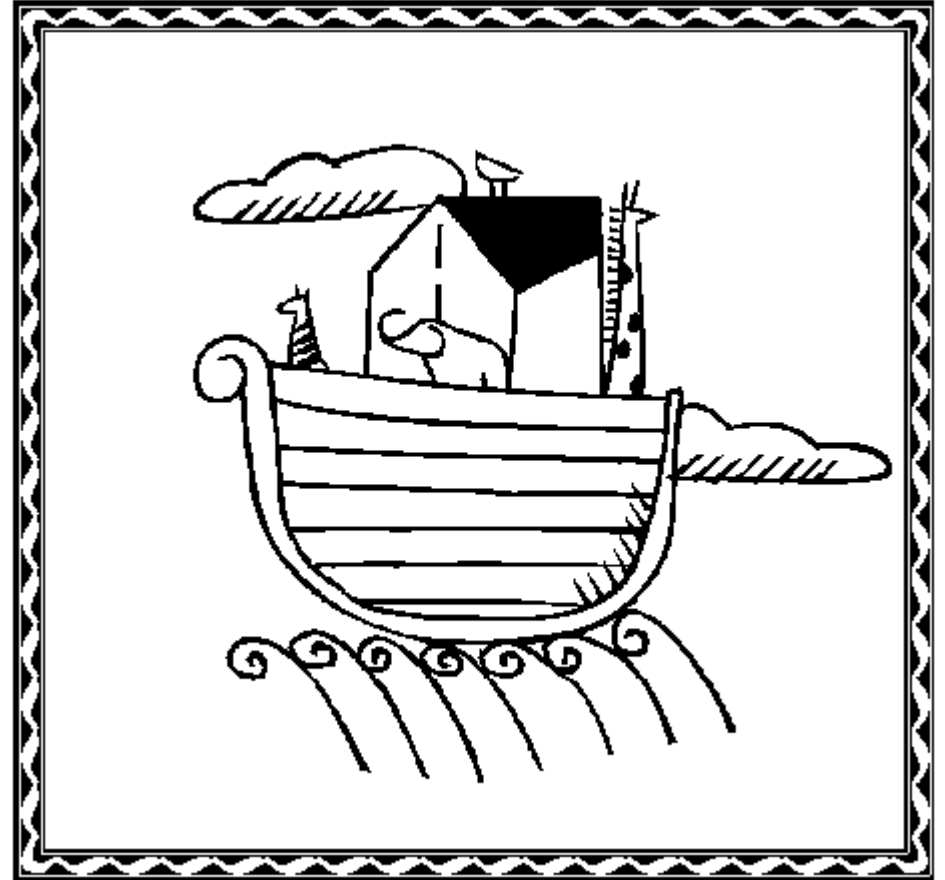
Homeowner: No, he had a gun sticking out of his pocket so I thought it would be better just to let him take everything.

Reporter: YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T WEAR YOUR BULLETPROOF VEST TO BED???

Homeowner: I don't have a bulletproof vest. AND I .... Just never mind. *(turns and begins to walk away)* It's no use.

Reporter: *(calling after him)* ...So, about that window—did you make a call yesterday to schedule someone to come and fix it?

# The Past is the Key to the Future



*"... In the last days scoffers will come... They will say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and with water. By water also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed." (2 Peter 3:4-6)*

# 'Coming' Attractions

Circle the answers to these multiple choice questions.

**EACH QUESTION HAS TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.**

Look in 2 Peter chapter 3 for help.

1. Peter wrote the following letter as a reminder to stimulate his readers to wholesome thinking: (3:1)

- A. First Peter
- B. Ephesians
- C. Second Peter
- D. The severe letter

2. The scoffers who say “everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation” deliberately forget: (3:5,6)

- A. To bring their Bible
- B. Creation itself
- C. To do their homework
- D. The flood

3. In the Day of the Lord, Jesus will bring this to men: (3:7,15)

- A. A flood to the dry ones
- B. Destruction to the ungodly ones
- C. Salvation to the godly ones
- D. Presents for everyone

4. God delays His coming judgment because: (3:8,9)

- A. He views time differently than men
- B. He's just slow
- C. He hasn't decided how to do it yet
- D. He is not willing that any should perish

5. The Lord sees time differently than we do: (3:8)

- A. He wears a much bigger watch
- B. He doesn't realize how long He has waited
- C. A day is like a thousand years
- D. A thousand years is like a day

6. The Day of the Lord will seem to come like a thief because: (3:10)

- A. It will be sudden
- B. It will be unexpected
- C. It will be unnoticeable
- D. It will be boring

7. Since everything will be destroyed this way, what kind of people should we be? (3:11)

- A. Doubtful
- B. Godly
- C. Speedy
- D. Holy

8. Although everything will be destroyed by fire, we “look forward” to:

- A. A new car (3:13)
- B. A new church
- C. A new heaven
- D. A new earth

9. Looking forward to His coming, we should make every effort to be:

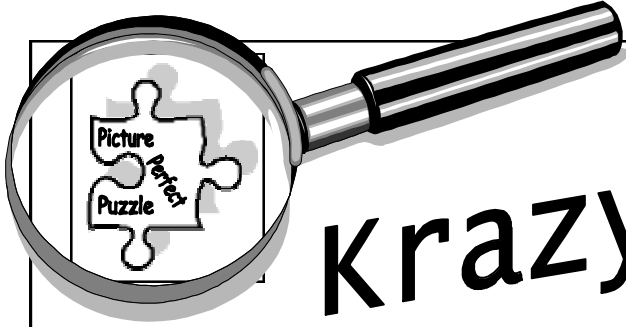
- A. Spotless (3:14)
- B. Brainless
- C. Blameless
- D. Restless

10. The Lord's patience means: (3:9,15)

- A. He's slow
- B. Opportunity for repentance
- C. Salvation
- D. He's not coming

11. Peter wants his readers to grow in: (3:18)

- A. The grace of our Lord and Savior
- B. A warm, sunny place
- C. Three weeks or less
- D. The knowledge of our Lord and Savior



# Krazy Keywords

The words below are keywords from today's lesson. Help the blindfolded teacher unscramble each of the clue words. Then copy the letters in the numbered spaces to the spaces on the bottom row with the same number to solve the mystery phrase.

ITAPNET

						7

SALNITVAO

								8	

DERYA

R	E	A	D	Y
10				

CIHRTS

		2			14

SEOSPTLS

						11	5

ESELMASBL

								9

NOULSDENGIS

		13			15				4	

DEJMUNGT

							6	

SEOMIRPS

							3

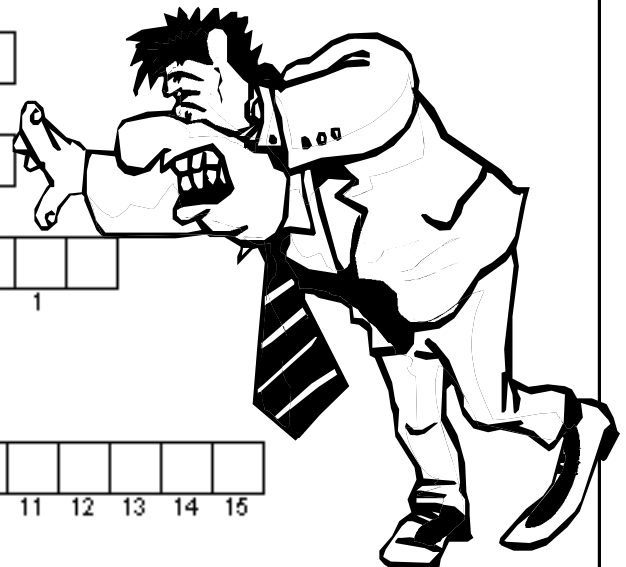
CERNENTAEP

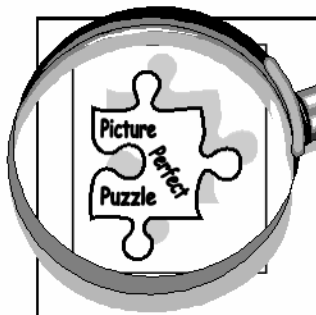
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1	2	3	4	5	6

W			
7	8	9	

R					
10	11	12	13	14	15

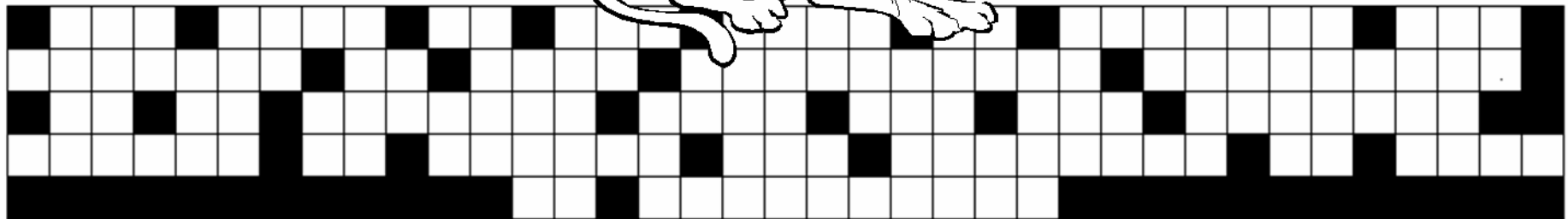
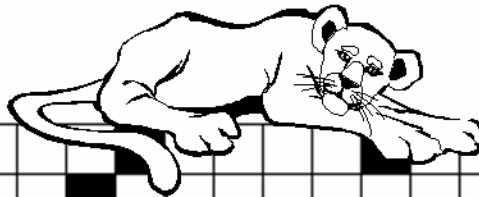




# FALLEN PHRASES

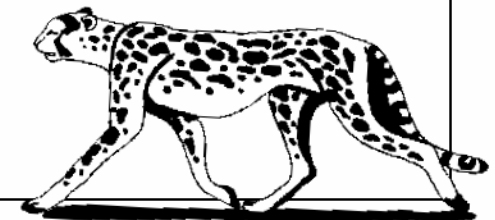


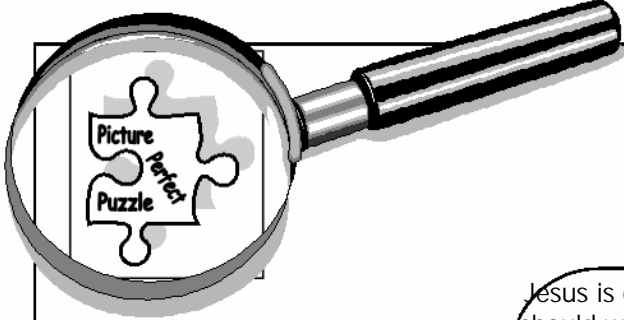
After all of the monkeyin' around, today's memory verse has fallen out of its spaces. Each letter appears below the same column that it fell from, but below where it should be. You must put the letters back in the grid and rebuild the memory verse. Try to complete this without your Bible.



I T E V

R	H	S	D	S	N	M	H	P	D	T	Y	O	T	C	N	Y	P	W	N	C	S															
N	O	E	I	E	T	A	I	E	R	O	O	W	E	N	H	N	T	S	U	N	R	O	E	E	L	O	T	T	S	O						
A	H	Y	O	I	L	E	P	O	T	P	S	T	T	S	T	I	S	L	E	R	E	I	E	E	K	T	S	E	I	N	G	E	N	I	M	
P	T	E	M	N	S	O	R	A	S	I	E	O	N	E	R	U	B	U	O	W	A	N	A	N	D	O	N	W	A	N	O	I	H	G	S	E





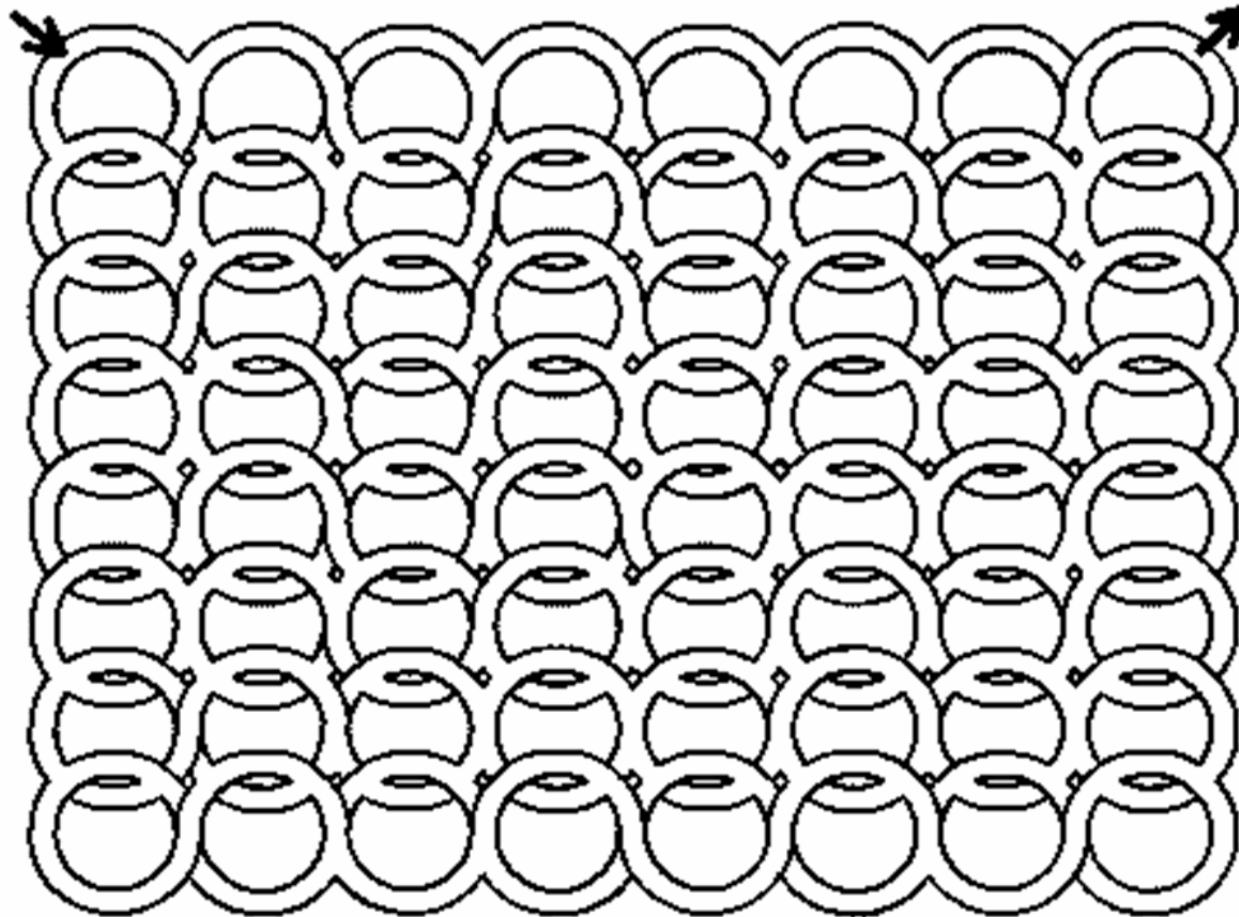
# Look For His Coming

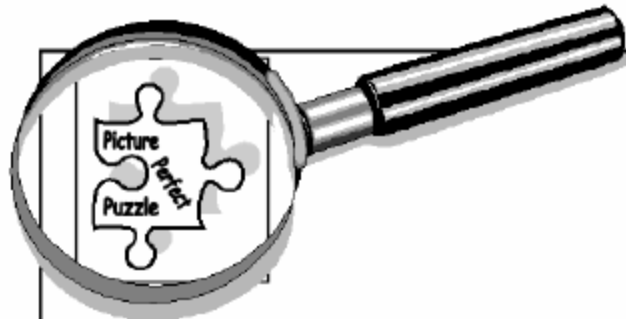
Jesus is coming back! We know this from our lesson today in 2 Peter. But should we just sit around and wait for His coming? No! Peter tells us to be growing in our faith so that when He returns we can be found spotless and blameless. Help Bill be found spotless and blameless when Jesus comes back by making it out of the maze.

**Blameless  
and  
Spotless**



**Bill**





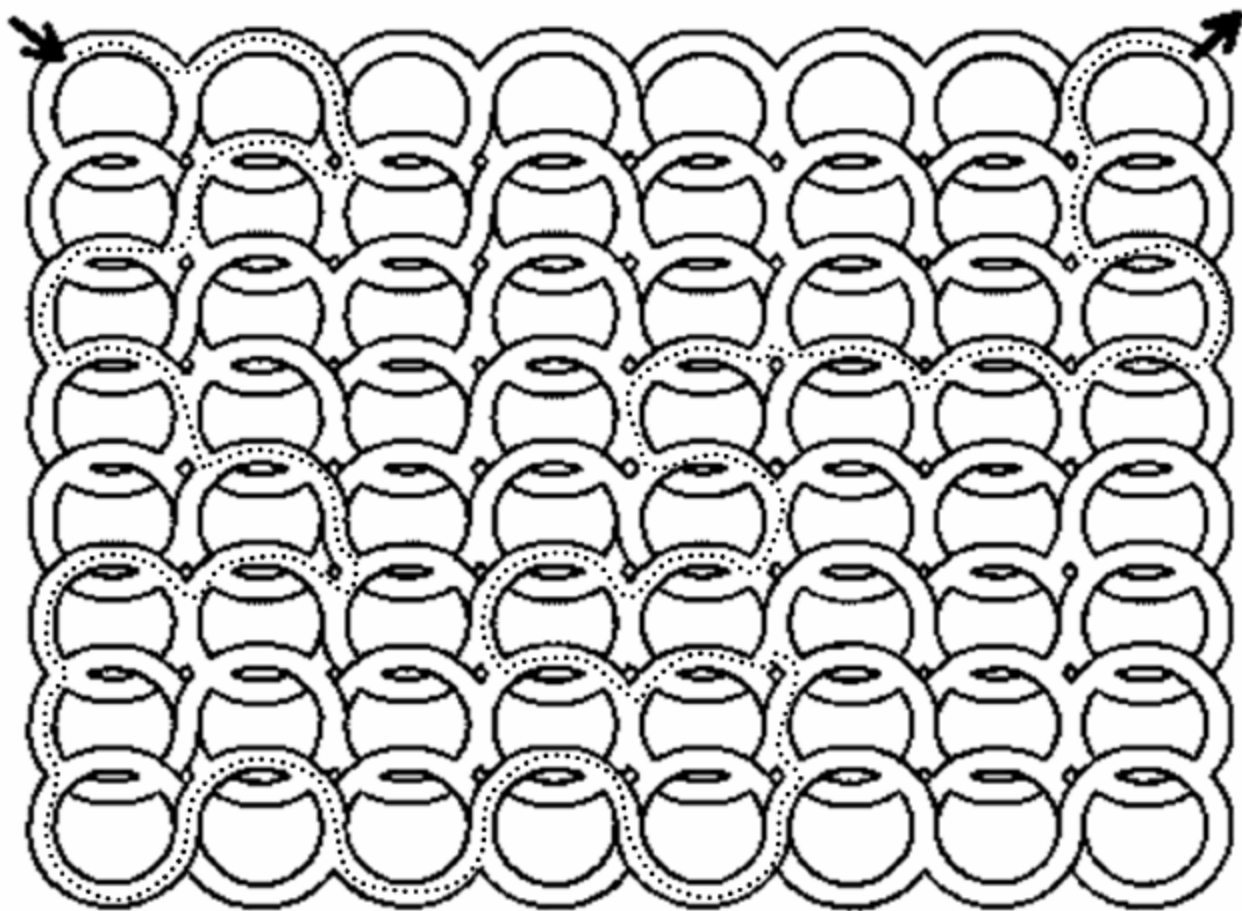
# Look For His Coming

Answer Key

Blameless  
and  
Spotless



Bill

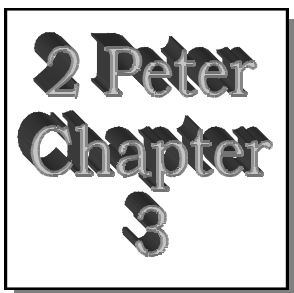


# Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Who wrote the book of 2 Peter and where did he write this book?
2. What specifically did Peter want his readers to understand in 2 Peter? What's the theme?
3. What were the false teachers teaching in the church?
4. What is Peter's response to their false teaching?
5. How can a Christian be ready for the Lord's return?

*Many Christians have been caught up with only the temporary things of this world. By doing this, they are risking their own faith! Think about your own life. Is your life marked by genuine godliness, holiness, blamelessness, and the pursuit of Christ? If not, then examine yourself to make sure that you are truly ready for His return.*



"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9

**Passage Review Questions**  
**2 Peter Chapter 3**

How does Peter address the people that he was writing? (3:1)

How many letters has Peter written them and why did he write them? (3:1)

What did Peter want the people to remember? (3:2)

What kinds of things should the people expect to happen during the last days? (3:3)

What will they say to support their argument? (3:4)

What did the false teachers deliberately forget? (3:5)

What event does verse 6 refer to? (3:6)

Instead of the world being destroyed by water, how will it be destroyed this second time? (3:7)

What character quality of God is highlighted in this passage? (3:8, 9)

Does He desire for all men to be saved? (3:9)

Why does Peter say that the day of the Lord will come like a “thief”? (3:10)

How should Christians live in view of the future of this world? (3:11)

What do Christians look forward to in the end? (3:13)

How should we be found when Jesus returns for us? (3:14)

What does God’s patience with us mean? (3:15)


Why should Christians be on guard? (3:17)

What should Christians be growing in? (3:18)

# Look Forward to His Coming.


June 2003

*"You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."  
2 Peter 3:11b,12a*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					


July 2003

*"But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."  
2 Peter 3:13*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2003


*"So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him."  
2 Peter 3:14*

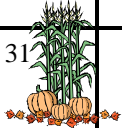

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

# Look Forward to His Coming - page 2

September 2003


*"Bear in mind that  
our Lord's patience  
means  
salvation..."  
2 Peter 3:15a*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 2003							November 2003						
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31 		23 30	24	25	26	27 	28	29

December 2003

*"But grow in the  
grace and  
knowledge of our  
Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ."  
2 Peter 3:18*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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*"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise,  
as some understand slowness.  
He is patient with you,  
not wanting anyone to perish,  
but everyone to come to repentance."  
2 Peter 3:9*

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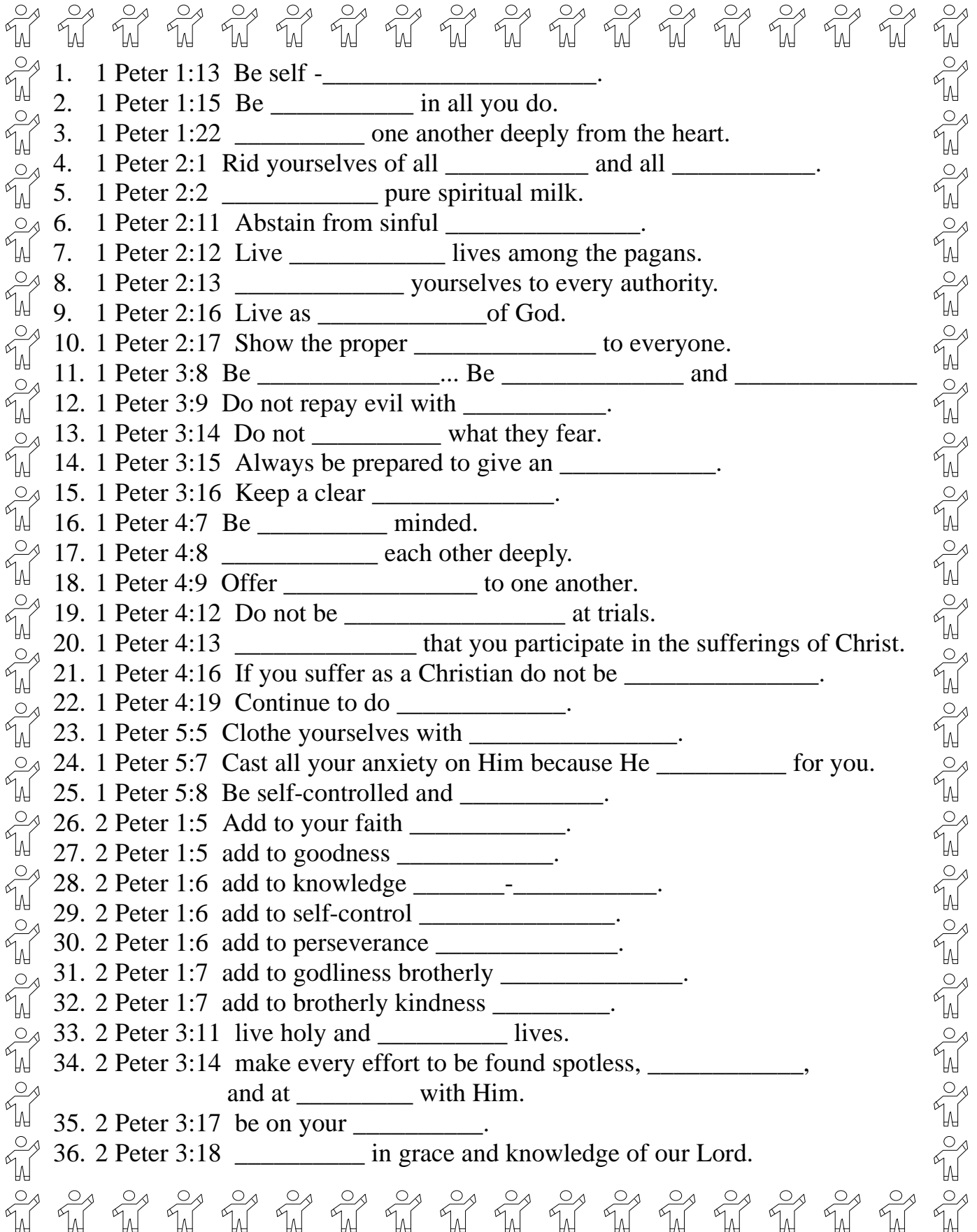
Look  
Forward



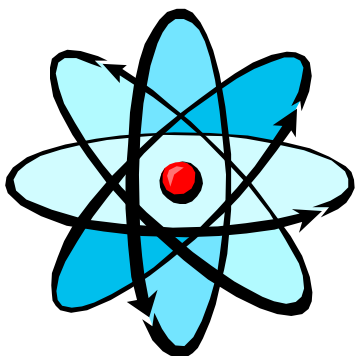
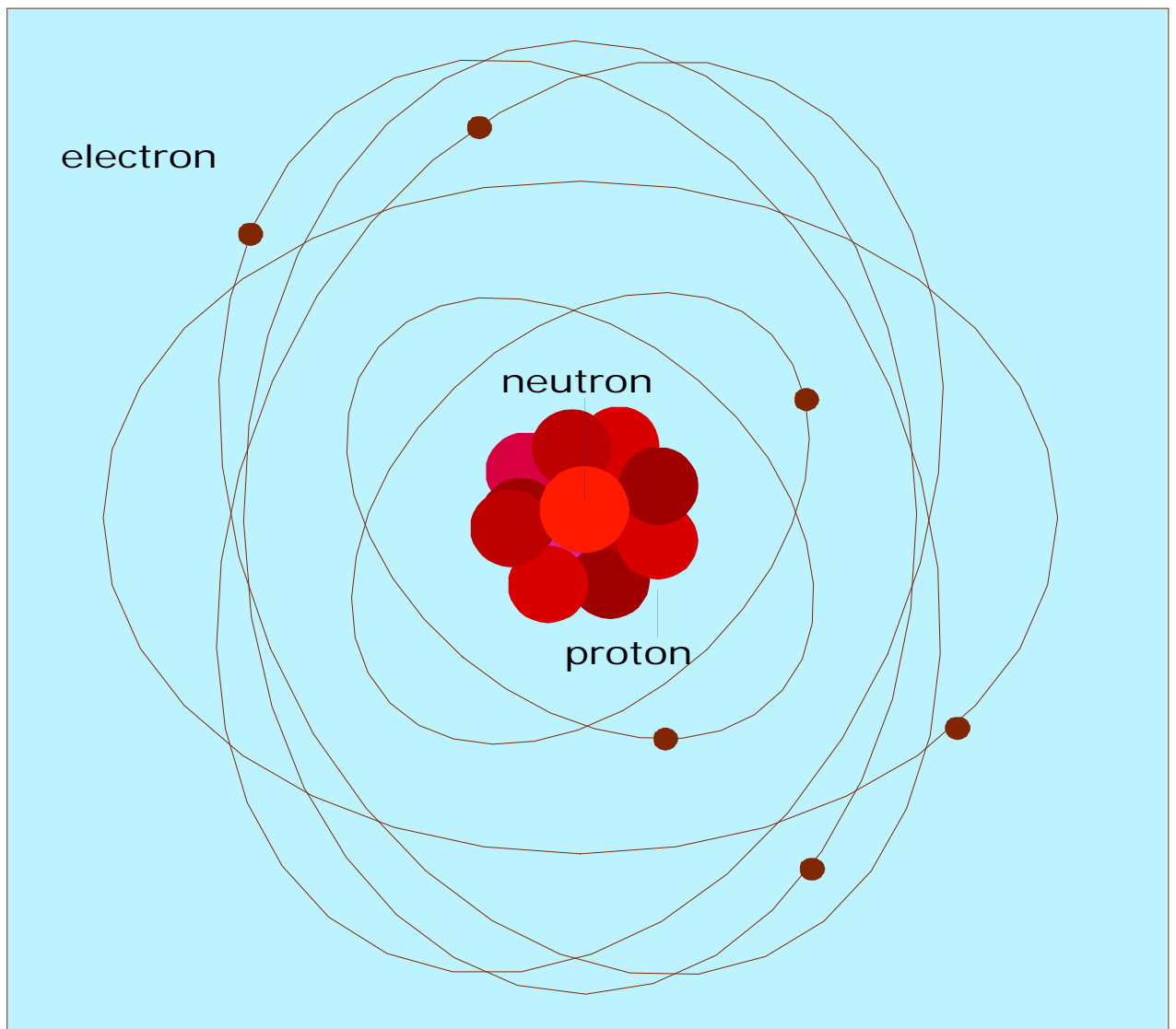
to His  
Coming!

# How Should We Live?

Look up these verses in your Bible. Work in groups to fill in Peter's answers to the question, How shall we then live?

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- The page is framed by a border of small stick figure icons. There are 15 icons along the top edge, 15 along the bottom edge, and 15 icons on each of the two vertical sides, for a total of 60 icons.
- 1 Peter 1:13 Be self - \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 1:15 Be \_\_\_\_\_ in all you do.
  - 1 Peter 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_ one another deeply from the heart.
  - 1 Peter 2:1 Rid yourselves of all \_\_\_\_\_ and all \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_ pure spiritual milk.
  - 1 Peter 2:11 Abstain from sinful \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 2:12 Live \_\_\_\_\_ lives among the pagans.
  - 1 Peter 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves to every authority.
  - 1 Peter 2:16 Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - 1 Peter 2:17 Show the proper \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone.
  - 1 Peter 3:8 Be \_\_\_\_\_... Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 3:9 Do not repay evil with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 3:14 Do not \_\_\_\_\_ what they fear.
  - 1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 3:16 Keep a clear \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 4:7 Be \_\_\_\_\_ minded.
  - 1 Peter 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_ each other deeply.
  - 1 Peter 4:9 Offer \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.
  - 1 Peter 4:12 Do not be \_\_\_\_\_ at trials.
  - 1 Peter 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_ that you participate in the sufferings of Christ.
  - 1 Peter 4:16 If you suffer as a Christian do not be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 4:19 Continue to do \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 5:5 Clothe yourselves with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on Him because He \_\_\_\_\_ for you.
  - 1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 1:5 Add to your faith \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 1:5 add to goodness \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 1:6 add to knowledge \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 1:6 add to self-control \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 1:6 add to perseverance \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 1:7 add to godliness brotherly \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 1:7 add to brotherly kindness \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 3:11 live holy and \_\_\_\_\_ lives.
  - 2 Peter 3:14 make every effort to be found spotless, \_\_\_\_\_, and at \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.
  - 2 Peter 3:17 be on your \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Peter 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_ in grace and knowledge of our Lord.

# “Elements”

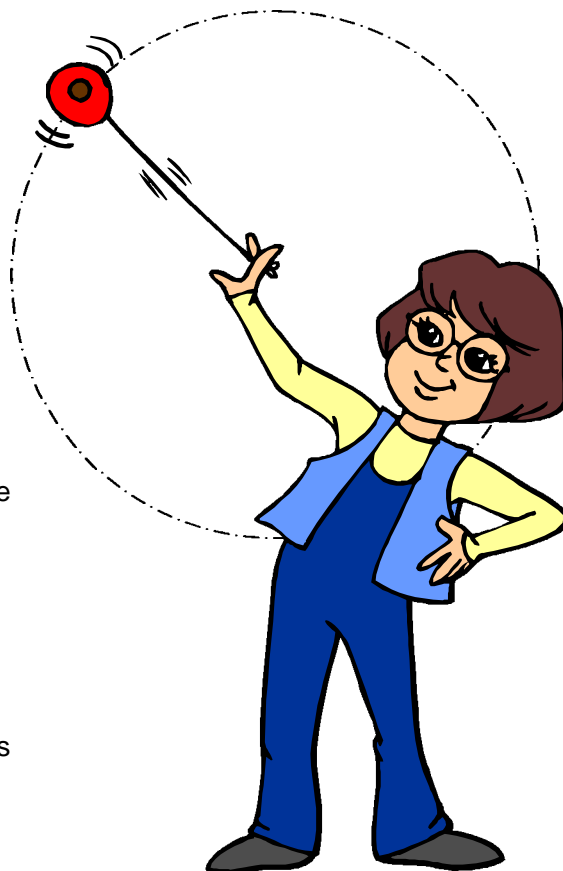


*“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise,  
as some understand slowness.  
He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,  
but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9*

Scientists have learned that if you look at any substance and find its very smallest building blocks, you will see that all matter is made up of atoms. Atoms have basically three different parts. Protons, neutrons, and electrons. The protons and neutrons are located in the center - or nucleus - of each atom. The electrons circle around the nucleus.

Atoms always have the same number of protons as they have neutrons, and electrons, and each kind of atom has its own number. For example, a helium atom (like in helium balloons!) has two protons, two neutrons, and two electrons. The atom pictured here with 6 protons, neutrons, and electrons is a carbon atom. Gold atoms would be hard to draw. They have 79 of each! These simple materials—like helium, carbon, and gold, are called elements.

Protons have a positive magnetic charge. (The neutrons are - you guessed it - neutral). The circling electrons have a negative magnetic charge. (*Add + and - signs to the diagram if you wish*). As the electrons zoom around the nucleus, they are held in close orbit by the attraction between themselves and the protons - since opposite magnetic charges attract. (You could show this principle by spinning a yo-yo around - lasso style - on the end of a string. The string is like the magnetic attraction that keeps the electrons in orbit). The speed of the electrons, though, keeps them in orbit away from the nucleus.



The thing scientists don't understand about atoms is what keeps the electrons going. All natural laws say that the electrons should eventually slow down and be drawn into the nucleus. If that were to happen, the positive and negative charges would neutralize each other, and the atom would go 'poof.' Yet, the speed of the electrons and the magnetic attraction that holds them remain in perfect balance. How? The Bible tells us that it is God who not only made everything, but keeps it all going. In 2 Peter 3:7 we read, "by the same word (that brought everything into existence) the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men." But the elements are not as permanent as they seem. Peter goes on to say that in the Day of the Lord, "The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.... That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat." (2 Peter 3:10, 12) We don't know exactly how it will happen, but some day, God will stop holding things in perfect balance and everything will burn up. It's very possible that the destruction and fire Peter describes will be some kind of nuclear reaction that happens when all the atoms become unstable and release great amounts of energy as they are destroyed.

Peter tells us the reason God patiently holds everything together until the judgment. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. God is patient, but the Bible says He won't wait forever. Is He waiting for you? Peter also says, "Bear in mind that the Lord's patience means salvation." (3:15). Are you ready for judgment? Have you given your life to Christ? When the day of the Lord comes, will you be saved because you know Him?