



Sermon Discussion Guide  
*Here in the In-Between 2: Improve Your Discernment*  
Sunday, August 2, 2020  
Based on Pastor Jason's Sermon

## **Introduction**

We're in a series called *Still Here in the In-Between*. We're talking about how we can live lives of purpose and meaning even when we feel stuck in those in-between places in our lives. These can be things like being in-between jobs, relationships, big decisions, or like our culture right now in-between quarantine and reopening. In this lesson, we learn that God can help us make good decisions.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to [www.journeyoffaith.com/sermons](http://www.journeyoffaith.com/sermons)

## **Share Your Story**

1. What's one belief you had that you chose to change when seeing it from a different perspective?
2. How discerning would those closest to you say that you are?

## **Hear God's Story**

1. Before moving onto 2 Peter 2, let's do a quick review of chapter 1 to help us put things in context. Briefly read 1 Peter 1 again to yourself. How would you summarize what's going on there in 1-2 sentences?
2. Now, read 1 Peter 2:1. What's Peter saying here? Next, what are some practical ways we can guard ourselves from believing false information and teaching?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:2. What does Peter mean here? And, how does this fit into what he's said so far in the letter up to this point?

## **Create a New Story**

1. What are some things you can do in your spiritual life to increase in wisdom and discernment this next week?
2. Think of one unhealthy personal desire that tends to lead you to bad decision making. What can you do this week to gain more control over that desire?

## Further Studies

Here are four simple principles that can help us apply what we just learned about in 2 Peter, and improve our discernment.

1. Consider all your options: To make a good decision, try and consider all the options God is offering you.  
Question: "Is my thinking too simplistic?"  
*(Note how Jesus challenged the religious leaders who weren't thinking about all of the options in John 9:1-3.)*
2. Challenge you biases: To make a good decision, let God challenge your biases.  
Question: "What am I not seeing?"  
*(Note how Jesus challenged biases in Luke 10:30-37.)*
3. Check your emotions: To make a good decision, try to check your emotions.  
Question: "Should I delay my response?"  
*(See James 1:19-20.)*
4. Control your pride: To make a good decision, control your pride.  
Question: "Could I be wrong?"  
*(See Philippians 2:3 and Ephesians 4:31-32.)*

## DISCUSS

1. Which of these four do you struggle with the most, and why?
2. What qualities do all four of these have in common?
3. What do you feel God is telling you that your next action step should be?

## For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at [matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com](mailto:matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com)