12 BE ON GUARD

KEY TEXT: 2 PETER 2:1-3,17-19; JUDE 17-25

CENTRAL truth

As members of God's family, Peter and Jude instruct us to watch out for false teachers. Though these false teachers promise freedom and happiness, their path leads to emptiness and destruction. We will be reminded that **we should be on guard against false teachers**, knowing that it is the Lord who sustains us.

key question

What does freedom look like according to the false teachers? How would you describe true freedom?

With their boastful, empty words, the false teachers tempt people to give in to their sinful and rebellious desires. The false teachers promised freedom but were enslaved to their own sinful habits and desires. True, biblical freedom is not a license to do whatever we want, whenever we want. True freedom is found in loving and following the Lord.

keep in mind

■ False teaching is not just something that infiltrated the early church—it is something that we must be aware of and combat today. Using the **Culture Note** in this week's session, help students to identify a few of the false teachings that they may be confronted with and remind them that we must be anchored by the Word of God.

■ Peter challenged his readers to extend mercy to those within the Christian community who heard the false teaching and found themselves confused and unsure of the truth. Allow this truth to shape the way you approach leading your group. Students ought to know that the group is not only a place where they can discover the truth of God's Word but also experience grace.

application

How can we learn to recognize whether teachings about God are true or false?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: The win for students this week is to understand that God is One who preserves and sustains His people, protecting us from stumbling in our faith.

FOR THE LEADER: : Remind students that we are not defenseless against the arrows of false teaching. Emphasize Jude's instructions in Jude 20-21. We grow, we pray, and we wait for Jesus's return.

Explore the Bible