



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 2: Our Mandate
Suggested Week of Use: March 9, 2025
Core Passage: 1 Peter 1:13-25

News Story Summary

Now, more than two months into 2025, it's important to revisit your New Year's goals. The fact is, many people have already allowed their goals to fall by the wayside. That's what makes it so important that individuals take the time to re-evaluate their priorities. Writer Nathan Lorick has identified three key priorities that go beyond March Madness, paying off debt, or retiring early. These spiritual priorities include the following activities:

- Walk closely with God.
- Be intentional about living on mission.
- Practice generosity.

Lorick states, "Having the right priorities is essential. They help us stay focused on the real reasons we exist." As a believer, Lorick understands the challenge of evaluating one's priorities and, if needed, aligning them with what really matters in life.

For more about this story, search "Focusing on what truly matters in 2025."

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, encourage adults to discuss their progress on New Year's resolutions. Talk about the relationship between such goals and setting priorities in life. Ask: *When it comes to your work tasks each day, how do you prioritize what needs to get done? How do you know when you're working your priorities correctly?* Allow adults to share their thoughts. Read the information from Nathan Lorick and emphasize the three spiritual priorities he mentioned. Ask: *Why is it that we often fail to include spiritual priorities, such as holiness, into our list of personal priorities?* Share that today's session looks at why Peter said holiness should be a spiritual priority for believers. Challenge adults to evaluate their own pursuit of holiness—and the obstacles they face in that pursuit—as they study these verses.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, write "Holiness" on the board. Lead those in the group to call out words or phrases that they associate with holiness. As you review the three points from Apply the Text, remind adults about the three priorities that Nathan Lorick identified in his article. Ask: *What are some specific ways that believers can nurture holiness in their lives by walking closely with God, being intentional about living on mission, and practicing generosity?*