



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 12: Be Alert

Suggested Week of Use: May 18, 2025

Core Passage: 2 Peter 2:1-3,17-19; Jude 17-23

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### News Story Summary

A recent headline in a Christian publication proclaimed that heresy is alive and well in the 21st-century church. The article pointed out that twenty-six of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament offer some kind of warning against false teaching. While discussing the threat of false teaching in the church today, the author identified three primary heresies:

**Deconstruction** (Individualism): A belief that dismantles one's understanding of what it means to be an evangelical Christian by emphasizing the power of "self" and diminishing the authority of the Bible and traditional doctrines that have anchored the church for centuries.

**Antinomianism:** A false doctrine that says Christians are not required to adhere to the moral, "legalistic" precepts of the Bible because they have been freed from "the law" by the grace of Jesus.

**Prosperity Gospel:** A philosophy grounded in the belief that God wants His followers to experience material riches and prosperity and that He will provide such blessings for those who follow Him with sufficient faith.

The writer encouraged believers to ground themselves in the truth of Scripture and what His Word reveals about their relationship with Christ, much as the writer of Hebrews taught (Heb. 5:14). That's the only path to spiritual maturity and the only way to train one's senses to discern good from evil.

For more about this story, search "False teaching is alive and well."

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, write "false teaching" on the board. As adults discuss the threats listed in Engage, lead them to discuss false teaching threats that the church faces today. Share the information about the three prominent false teachings identified above and lead the group to discuss where they see these in the church today. Ask: *How can each of these false teachings be harmful to the church?* Explain that today's session, drawn from both 2 Peter and Jude, challenges Christ followers to remain alert for false teachers and the divisions they can sow within the church.

## Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, write the first application truth on the board: *Believers should be alert to false teachers and to any teachings that deny Christ.* Referring back to the three false teachings identified in the article, ask: *What things can believers look for to alert them to these types of false teaching? Where have you seen examples of these teachings on social media or other platforms?* Direct a volunteer to read Hebrews 5:14 and remind adults of the closing challenge from the article. Encourage them to examine their lives and to identify ways they can ground themselves more securely in God's Word and their relationship with Him through Jesus.