

# 2 Peter 3:1-9

## “A New Year: What is God Waiting For?”

**Scripture:** 2 Peter 3:1-9

**Memory Verse:** 2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (ESV)*

**Lesson Focus:** Even though God fulfilled so many ancient Christmas promises with Jesus’ first coming, He still has some unfulfilled promises hanging out there until His second coming. But now with another year past, we may wonder why God is taking so long? Our text gives us some answers. After a shorter teaching, we will then play some games in the Summit Room together to launch into the New Year with some fun!

**Activities and Crafts:** Happy New Year Coloring Page, Word Maze of different terms from lesson.

Craft for ALL Grades: New Years Resolution Bookmark

**Starter Activity:** Sandwich Survey

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship and remain there through most of the lesson for the teaching and some games.

We’re going to get started by taking a poll to see which of these four food items the kids like the best (grilled cheese, PBJ, meatball sub, or hamburger). **Teachers:** Kindly help me with the counting of your kids. \* We will have a picture of each shown so that the kids can easily identify them. \*

Q: What do all four of these things have in common?

A: They are all sandwiches!

Q: What basic things do you need to have before you can call something a sandwich?

A: Two pieces of bread and some sort of filling IN BETWEEN.

Q: Can you think of anything else that is “sandwiched” IN BETWEEN two of the same thing? A: S’mores, Enchilada, nose in between eyes, middle siblings, etc. \*

Guess what! All of us are sandwiched in between two similar events in time. We just celebrated Christmas, remembering Jesus’s first coming over 2000 years ago. \* But before He ascended into heaven (after His death and resurrection), He promised that He would come back again a second time to make all things new.

It’s now 2022, ~2000 years later, and we are still sandwiched in between His first and second coming, waiting for Him to return. **What is He waiting for?** Let’s find out!

## Bible Study:

**2 Peter 3:1-2:** This is Peter the apostle writing who was with Jesus at His death, resurrection, and ascension. 30 years have passed and he is urging Christians to be “mindful” of the word of God. \*

Q: What does it mean to be “mindful” of something? A: To remember or think of it often.

**2 Peter 3:3-4:** Peter warns the believers that mockers will come trying to get people to doubt God’s word and doubt that He keeps His promises.

And people in the world say that today! They think they are so clever and say things like, “It’s been 2000 years. Has God fallen asleep? Where is Jesus? I don’t see Him, do you?” And when you hear them, you might think, “Hmm...why IS He taking so long? **What’s He waiting for?** Hold on....God tells us later in this passage.

**2 Peter 3:5-6:** Peter says they ignore God’s power in creating the earth and bringing about the flood (in the days of Noah) to judge the evil on the earth. No, it has NOT always been the same. God created all things and chooses to accomplish His plans on His timetable, not ours. There is something else important to remember:

Q: How many years was it before God fulfilled His ancient Christmas promises that we studied last month? \*

A: Thousands! \* God’s people had to wait a long, long time, but He kept His promise to send His Son! Why shouldn’t we also expect to wait?

**2 Peter 3:7:** God is the One who is preserving the world by His power! (**Hebrews 1:3**) And when Jesus returns, look out, it ain’t going to be pretty for unbelievers. \*

**2 Peter 3:8:** But why is He taking so long to return? Well, maybe it seems long to us, but it is nothing to God for He is outside of time. Often, we even seem to experience time going by fast or slow. Think about time at school vs. your Christmas holidays! Peter’s point is that God is outside of time and He will fulfill His promises when HE wants to!

**2 Peter 3:9:** OK, so God’s plan is according to His timing, but “**What is He waiting for?**” Here’s the answer. He’s waiting for people to turn to Him in faith! He is patient and holding back judgment until all of His people repent and believe in Him! \*

Q: How about you? Do you belong to Jesus? Are you living for Him? If Jesus came back today, would He find you faithful? Remember what awaits unbelievers in v. 7! \*

If you are a believer, I’m glad! This year, 2022, Jesus could return. He wants you to live for Him each and every day of this year.

If you’re not a believer, talk to your leader and your parents and make Jesus your Lord and Savior in 2022! \*

**Teachers:** At this point we will close our teaching and celebrate the New Year with some fun group games! \* See classroom craft and activity guidelines below.

**Classroom Time Afterwards:** We will provide every classroom with some sheets of bookmarks that will need to be cut out so that each kid gets one. Have the kids trim the edges of their own bookmark with the scissors. On this bookmark are a few ideas for the kids to pursue in growing in their walk with the Lord in 2022. Encourage the kids to put this in their Bibles before they leave so that they can reference it throughout the year as they open their Bibles.

Some ideas for how to use this bookmark in class afterwards:

- Have the kids color in one or more of the boxes of things that they would like to pursue in 2022 (or have them write in something in particular on the space provided).
- Have the class share what they chose. Consider bringing in a ball or something that you can have the kids pass around and have the kid that gets the ball share what they would like to do in 2022.
- Share with the kids some goals that you might have for growing closer to the Lord in 2022!
- Have some group discussion on ways in which they can stick to this throughout the year.
- **Philippians 3:14** says, *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* Pray as a group and encourage the kids to use this bookmark as a tool to help them grow closer to Jesus in 2022.