



Group Guide

Living as God's People

February 1, 2026

Main Passage: 1 Peter 2:4-10

Theological Theme

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the church and faith. As believers, we are “living stones” in God’s spiritual house, called to offer spiritual sacrifices to God that proclaim His goodness and point others to Jesus.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever had foundation issues on a home you lived in? What happened?
- ❓ Why was it important to fix this?

1. The Cornerstone of Christ (1 Peter 2:4)

Jesus, the living stone, was rejected by (some) people during His incarnation. Some of those in opposition to Him falsified evidence, connived and had Him wrongly imprisoned, and ultimately pushed for His death on a cross. How hard and proud their hearts were to not recognize the long-awaited, prophesied Messiah had come.

- ❓ Who did Peter refer to as “him, a living stone” in verse 4? How was He rejected by people? How is He chosen and honored by God?
- ❓ How and why is Jesus foundational to the church?
- ❓ How foundational is Jesus to your daily life? Why do you answer as you do?

2. Living Stones (1 Peter 2:5)

In this spiritual house metaphor, Jesus is the cornerstone (the foundation upon which all is built), and we are also living stones, an important, active part of the “house,” connected to Jesus and unified together as one body. Much is written in the New Testament about the importance of unity in the body of Christ, and here is another example (we all, as “living stones,” work as one in God’s spiritual house). This house represents the people of God. We may be very different from other disciples of Jesus in a number of ways, but one thing we all have in common is our belief in Jesus—who unifies us in a way that is more important than any other type of affiliation (political party, race, secondary beliefs, etc.).

- ❓ In what way are we “living stones” as Peter described here? (v.5)
- ❓ How should we understand the “spiritual house” Peter is referencing?
- ❓ What do you think it means for us to be a “holy priesthood” (v.5)?

3. A Chosen People (1 Peter 2:6-10)

Peter went on to reference a series of Old Testament passages. The first references the cornerstone, Jesus, and the honor that comes from believing in Him. For those of us who believe in Jesus, honor will come to us (v. 7). But for those who don't believe... Peter references another pair of passages.

- ❓ What was Peter's point in using the quoted passages in verses 6-8?
- ❓ How do nonbelievers “stumble” (v. 8)?
- ❓ How do we “proclaim the praises of the one who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light” (v. 9)?

Conclusion

- ❓ What are some practical ways we could work to keep Christ as more of a foundational part of our lives and decisions?
- ❓ How does realizing your role as a “living stone” change how you look at your role in Christian community?
- ❓ What kind of spiritual sacrifices do you currently offer God in your everyday life? Where might God be calling you to offer something more?
- ❓ How would you sum up what Peter wrote about salvation in this passage? Who is one person in your life you could share this truth with this week?