

# The Gospel From every Angle

## Gospel of Citizenship

### 1 Peter 2:4-12

# TALK IT OVER

#### Passages

*"4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." – 1 Peter 2:4-12 (ESV)*

More of God's truth all week long at the "Renewal Church Denver" app or "St. John's Denver" app in your app store.

#### Start Talking: Find an announcement or mission for your group. (15 Min)

- When is our next outreach party? See page 4 for ideas
- When is our next mission we would like to participate in?
- If the preacher had to give an abbreviated version of last weekend's message, what two points or ideas would you tell him to include no matter what?

#### Head: Start Thinking about the Text. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read 1 Peter 2:4-12. Who do you think is Peter's audience? Look at the foot notes if your bible has some. Why is this message important for them and us to know?
- What words stick out to you in this passages that are repeated a few times, why are these words significant?
- What does it mean to be a citizen of our country, state, and city? In what ways is our citizenship to Jesus's kingdom similar? In what ways does it differ?

#### Heart: Start Sharing how the Text is shaping our beliefs. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- When have you felt the tension of being a part of this present world and Jesus's kingdom? How do we reconcile these?
- How does this passage motivate you as citizens of heaven?

#### Hands: Start living the Text. Commit to believing or obeying the text this week. (10 Min)

- You have been Chosen! You are a citizen of Christ's Kingdom! Write that somewhere you will see it and be reminded daily of this.
- Jesus desires that we are doers of the word, and not hearers only. Please create an "I will" or "I believe" statement that describes how you will take action based on today's biblical teaching.

#### Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

#### Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. Pick a question. (15 Min)

1. Who is one non-believer or someone without a church home that you need to reach out to this week?
2. What kind of conversations are you having with people you are reaching out to?
3. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
4. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.