

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 2:4–10

KEY TRUTH

In Jesus, God gives us a new identity, builds us into a new people, and gives us a new purpose.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

How is Jesus described in verse 4?

How does Peter describe believers in verse 5, and what is God doing with them?

What two images does Peter use in verse 5 to describe believers together?

According to verses 6–8, how do people respond differently to Jesus, the cornerstone?

What names and titles does Peter give God's people in verse 9?

What purpose does Peter give God's people in verse 9?

What changes does Peter describe in verse 10?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

Why do you think Peter calls Jesus a “living stone”? How do His resurrection and rejection help explain that image?

What does it mean for believers to be “living stones” who are being built into a spiritual house?

How does Peter's picture challenge an individualistic view of following Jesus?

Why is Jesus described as both a precious cornerstone and a stone that causes some people to stumble?

What does it mean for the church to be a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation?

What do verses 9–10 reveal about the relationship between God’s mercy, our identity, and our purpose?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

Which roles, accomplishments, failures, wounds, or struggles are you most tempted to use as your identity?

What difference would it make to see yourself as alive in Jesus, chosen by God, and precious to Him?

The message distinguished between our identity and our calling. Why is that distinction important when our roles or circumstances change?

Where are you tempted to isolate yourself rather than allow God to build you together with His people?

What is one practical step you could take toward deeper life and faith with other believers?

What would it look like for you to “put WE above ME” in your relationships, church involvement, or service?

God’s royal priesthood has an upward purpose, offering our lives to God, and an outward purpose, proclaiming His goodness. Which direction needs more attention in your life right now?

Where has God placed you to represent Jesus: your home, workplace, school, neighborhood, friendships, or online presence?

Who needs to hear what God has done for you, and what is one natural way you could share His goodness with that person?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

What have I been allowing to define me besides Jesus?

Am I living as an isolated stone, or am I allowing God to build me into His people?

Do I believe that I am chosen, loved, and a recipient of God’s mercy?

Where has my King placed me to represent Him?

Who needs to see or hear about His goodness through my life this week?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Take one intentional step in each area this week. Replace one old label with what God says about you in Christ. Reach out to another believer and take a step out of isolation. Then look for one opportunity to tell someone what God has done for you or to show them His goodness through the way you serve.

Remind yourself each day:

“In Jesus, God gives me a new identity, builds me into a new people, and gives me a new purpose.”

PRAYER

Thank God for calling you out of darkness and giving you mercy. Ask Him to help you trust what He says about your identity, take your place among His people, and offer your life to Him as worship. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where God has placed you to represent Jesus and to give you courage to proclaim His goodness to the people around you.