

A LIVING HOPE

1 PETER SERMON SERIES

SERMON LISTENING GUIDE // DATE: _____

1 Peter 2:1-8 // So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 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.

A United Church

1 Peter 2:1-8

How do we exist as a united church?

1. Check our hearts (v. 1-3)

2. Check our fellowship (v.4-8)

APPLICATION GUIDE

1. Why must your heart be renewed by Jesus to love other people very different than yourself?
2. Why is diversity necessary for the church?
3. How does Gods word allow you to have common ground with other Christians who aren't like you?

MISSIONARY PRAYER // LINDSEY CAMPBELL - MIDDLE EAST



Corona came, and my plane to Jordan did not take off. But God has not been stopped. I am in my third month of online English and Bible story classes with mostly Arabs living in 10 different countries. They come from Muslim, Christian and Druze communities.

This week we read the story of Esther when her cousin Mordecai said: "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" Surely God has made no mistakes, but rather has placed us in such a time as this. Two years ago, I wondered what eternal value could come from my long days teaching English in the refugee camp. Though I no longer have physical access into the camp. I get to read Bible stories with 5 people living in the camp. God is faithful and wastes none of the time consecrated to him.

Nine years ago, I met Lina at church in Egypt and through these lessons over the last few months we have reconnected. After our group (from various religious backgrounds) read through the story of the adulterous woman, she messaged me. "You know Lindsey, I got so emotional while sharing because I found that we have something so big and so important and I have never been able to share something like this with others especially here in Egypt. We don't talk about religion. It might be a big problem, but I found Jesus talking through me. Because He wanted them to know about His death and sacrifice taking her place. It's a big thing. I can't imagine how we could take this for granted. Sometimes I feel, it's ok I know Jesus died but this time when you read the story, I found I met with Jesus in a different way. I found that I am the sinner and Jesus died because of my sins. God touched my heart, and I wish that Jesus will meet with them one day."

Coronavirus has proven that our lives can be interrupted for days, weeks, months! When this is all over how can our lives remain interruptible for a minute, an hour, or a day for the people all around us?

If a virus will make us pause, how about a soul?

- Pray for the families that I pour into here in Jacksonville that they would find hope in the good news of Jesus.
- Pray for the online ministering I have been doing that more seekers & good God conversations will come out of that effort.
- Pray for more harvesters.

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

What are they?

The Bible is clear that God has designed life to be lived in dynamic relationships of trust and love. For this reason, Christ Church East also meets weekly in homes throughout the city for food, fellowship, Bible study and prayer. While groups meet weekly, they are not defined by a night of the week or a time on the clock. They are a people increasingly living their lives together and learning how to love one another in gospel community.

How do they work?

Groups are open to people in all seasons and walks of life. Each group provides child care so that the adults can focus on study, sharing, and prayer after a time of food and fellowship. On a regular basis, men and women break out separately to address gender specific needs. Typically, our groups take time off during the months of June and July. If you are interested in joining a group, fill out our online connect card (www.christchurcheast.org/connectwithus).

COMMUNITY BIBLE READING // JUNE 29 - JULY 5

Day	Date	Read
Mon	6/29/20	Philippians 4:4-23, Psalm 76
Tues	6/30/20	Catch-up day, Psalm 77
Wed	7/1/20	Catch-up day, Psalm 78
Thurs	7/2/20	Colossians 1:1-2:5, Psalm 79
Fri	7/3/20	Colossians 2:6-3:11 Psalm 80
Sat	7/4/20	Colossians 3:12-4:18, Psalm 81
Sun	7/5/20	Catch-up day, Psalm 82