

Living Stones
1 Peter 2:4-10
Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Discussion (have everyone answer):

- What is your favorite house that you have ever lived in, or vacationed at, or visited? What made it so appealing?
- How do you feel about architecture? Do you notice and appreciate intricate details, or not so much?

Opening Prayer: Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion and Bible Study. Pray for any obvious needs for anyone in the group, which may pose a distraction.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10.

- ❖ What does Peter mean by calling Jesus “the Living Stone,” in v. 4? (In v. 6 we see that he is referencing the “Cornerstone.”) What does it mean for Jesus to be the Living Cornerstone?
- ❖ What does it mean that we are like “living stones?” Flesh out this metaphor and what it means practically.
- ❖ On Sunday we celebrated our newly renovated sanctuary, and yet we were careful to emphasize that the “church” is not a building, but a “spiritual house” made up of “living stones.” Discuss:
 - Do you feel any tension between these two realities?
 - What support do you find in the Bible for valuing and delighting in a sacred space, such as our sanctuary?
 - In what ways might we tend to over-emphasize the physical structure, to the detriment of the “spiritual house” that God is building in us?
 - How can we be more intentional about becoming the spiritual house that God wants us to be?
- ❖ What are our “spiritual sacrifices?” (v. 5)
 - What makes them acceptable to God?
 - See the following verses for specific descriptions of some of these “spiritual sacrifices:” Romans 12:1; Philippians 4:18; Hebrews 13:15; Hebrews 13:16.
 - Can you think of others not mentioned here?
- ❖ In v. 9, Peter gives a number of word pictures to describe who we have become in Christ. Using your knowledge and by referencing the Old Testament, try to unpack as many of these images as possible, trying to find out what they mean practically for our lives today.
- ❖ In particular, what is the significance of our being a “royal priesthood?” How do you feel about this role?
- ❖ One of our new responsibilities is “that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (v. 9). Pastor Josh referenced this as a “horizontal responsibility.” What does that mean? What might it look like in your relationships this week?
- ❖ What is one action that you feel prompted to take as a result of this Bible Study? Can your small group hold you accountable to doing that this week?

Prayer: Share your needs among the group, and pray earnestly for one another. Pray for TVC, that we might be the spiritual house that God intends us to be.