

Small Group / Personal reflection material

WRITTEN IN STONE SERIES: LIVING STONES

(11 April 2021)



1. Read Luke 1 Peter 2:1-11:

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The living Stone and a chosen people

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

*‘See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.’^[b]*

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

*‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,’^[c]*

⁸ and,

*'A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.'*⁸

They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Living godly lives in a pagan society

¹¹ *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."*

2. What do you understand it to mean when Peter says that Jesus is the Living Stone and the Cornerstone?
3. Do you think we are guilty at times of making Jesus like a ceremonial cornerstone on the outside of the building, rather than the functional, foundational cornerstone that determines the alignment and position of our lives?
4. We are called to build our lives on Jesus as Christ followers. Read Matthew 7:24-29 and discuss what you think this practically means.
5. What does it mean to you that we are called "a chosen people and a royal priesthood?"
6. How do you think you can perform a priestly function in your day-to-day life?
7. We are collectively, living stones that are built into a temple in which others can experience God's presence. A temple is not constructed out of any one single stone, but of many stones that each have a place and a purpose. Why do you think the collective nature of God's community is so critical?