

**Praise:** Start your time in worship together as a family by following the order of service posted by Westview.

**Pray:** Bring your week, all the joys and struggles right to Jesus. Ask that he would heal you and meet with you today.

**Review:** Last week we looked at Romans and you were challenged to read all of 1 Peter. How did that go?

**Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhP7AZQIzCg>

**Read:** 1 Peter 2: 4 - 12

**Questions/Discussion:**

- **Peter makes two distinct references to living stones. Who is he talking about in verse 4? How does he describe the “living stone?”**
  - *Answer:* He is referring to Jesus. He says Jesus was rejected by men, but chosen by God.
- **How is Jesus a living stone\*? How does the rest of the passage help us understand what Peter means?**
  - *Answer:* First, Jesus is alive. This is a reference to Jesus’ resurrection. Second, Jesus is the cornerstone, the foundation of the church. Amazingly, God uses Jesus, who was not accepted by the religious leaders of this time, to be the key piece or the foundation, of His people. (\*living stones refers to the church)
- **Peter uses the same term to describe Jesus and His church. What does it say about the church? What can we learn about who the church is supposed to be?**
  - *Answer:* The church should be like Jesus. Our actions and attitudes should mimic Jesus’.
- **How does Peter describe the identity of the church?**
  - *Answer:* He says the church is “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession.” Help students see that it’s important to understand that these terms are terms that the Old Testament used to describe the people of Israel. This, then, is Peter’s way of making it clear that believers in Jesus are God’s people. They belong to God.
- **How does it make you feel to know that you are a part of God’s people?**
  - Again the answer will vary. The goal is to help the students see how these words actually describe their identity as a believer.
- **Why did God make us His people? What is the purpose? What are we called to accomplish?**
  - *Answer:* God made us a people so that we could tell of His greatness. Help students see that this is crucial. God made them a part of His family for a purpose. They have a purpose. The purpose is that they would proclaim or tell people about who God is and what He has done.
- **What story do we have to tell? How has knowing Jesus impacted our lives?**
  - *Answer:* Our story is that we have been rescued from darkness and brought into God’s light. Every person who trusts in Jesus as their Savior has a miraculous story to tell. Your personal story is one way that you can point people to Jesus.
- **How does Peter encourage the church to live in verse 11?**
  - *Answer:* He tells them to “abstain from the passions of the flesh” (2:11, ESV). In other words, to no longer be ruled by our desires. Living this way is distinctly different from the world.
- **How does verse 12 say believers should relate to unbelievers?**
  - *Answer:* It says they should live honorable lives, even if unbelievers say evil things to them.

**Conclusion/ Challenge:** Take some time in silence to ask Jesus how you can participate in his mission for the church, and journal any thoughts or answers you receive.

**Next Sunday we will be looking at the book of James, It is only 5 chapters which could be complete in 5 minutes a day. Try to read the entire book by next Sunday.**