

Building Our Faith

Believers mature both personally and as a community through God's grace.



The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

1 PETER 2:1-10

August 25, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: 1 PETER 2:1-10

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. 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."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,"⁸ and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." 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.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- What do you consider to be the essentials for physical strength and health?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

SPIRITUAL MILK

> Read 1 Peter 2:1-3

- If you've ever focused on healthier eating and exercise, why was it important? How does it compare to maintaining our spiritual health?
- Why should we desire a spiritual diet of pure milk? How will malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander contaminate pure spiritual milk?
- Think about all the kinds of milk available today—skim, almond, soy, chocolate, etc. All of them catered to different tastes or needs. Now think about all the various spiritual milks available—some watered down versions of Christianity (like skim milk), some substitutes for the real thing (like soy milk), etc. How can we recognize pure spiritual milk? What is it and where do we find it?

SPIRITUAL HOUSE

> Read 1 Peter 2:4-8

- What do you think it means that Jesus is a "living stone"?
- What does the picture of living stones being made into a house tell us about our spiritual growth? How does it happen? Who is involved?
- How did Jesus represent a stone both to believers and unbelievers?

SPIRITUAL PEOPLE

> Read 1 Peter 2:9-10

- Here are the 4 descriptions Peter used to describe God's church. How does each describe the nature of our relationship with God?

A Chosen People: _____

A Royal Priesthood: _____

A Holy Nation: _____

God's special possession: _____

- What expectations do you think these verses lay out for us to live in His marvelous light?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

What guidance does 1 Peter 2:1-10 provide about building our faith?

Encourage: Point out that the session focuses on the personal and community aspects of Christian maturity. Invite volunteers to identify one fellow believer they will encourage in the coming week. Ask volunteers to share their way of encouragement without revealing whom they plan to encourage.

Challenge: Evaluate the progress of your spiritual life. How are you growing in your relationship with the Lord? What areas need more attention? List actions you will take to foster your spiritual growth.

Pray: Close in prayer, asking God to help the group follow through with the actions identified during the discussion of the In My Context questions.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

Next week we will be off for Labor Day Weekend. Then we resume our study with 1 Peter 2:11-20. This passage deals with the kind of testimony we present as we live under worldly authorities. What authority do you struggle with the most: parent, boss, government, etc.? How does this passage help us with our struggle?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

25th – Jeremiah 37-39; Psalm 79; 2 John | **26th** – Jeremiah 50-51; 3 John | **27th** – Jeremiah 52; Revelation 1; Psalm 143, 144 | **28th** – Ezekiel 1-3; Revelation 2 | **29th** – Ezekiel 4-7; Revelation 3 | **30th** – Ezekiel 8-11; Revelation 4 | **31st** – Ezekiel 12-14; Revelation 5

Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE
CHANGED BY HIM IN A
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR
THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.
CREATE COMMUNITY.
MAKE DISCIPLES.
