



PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

AUGUST 20, 2017

BIBLICAL EMPHASIS:

We are living stones sent to be messengers of mercy.

MAIN POINT:

Our relationship with God comes with the responsibility to declare His praises.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What did you want to be when you grew up, and why?
- 2 Do you feel called to your career? If so, how did you sense that calling?
- 3 What things are we called to other than our careers?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read 1 Peter 2:4-5.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- What does Peter remind us about Jesus' identity by calling Him the "living Stone" in verse 4? Why is it significant that Jesus is the living Stone?
- What parts of the stone imagery stand out to you the most? Why?
- Why did Peter say that Jesus Christ Himself is the cornerstone of this building (v. 6)? What does this mean about the place of Jesus within the church?
- Why is it important to recognize Jesus as the cornerstone of our church? Other than Jesus Himself, what might we be tempted to make the cornerstone of our faith?

> Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, 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.

- In verse 9, Peter laid out some of the blessings we receive by being the people of God. What are they, and what do each of these blessings mean for us?
- Read Exodus 19:5-6. What is the difference between God's promise to Israel and His promise to the church in 1 Peter 2?
- For what purpose did Peter say we have been called to know and love God (v. 10)?
- Why is it important for us to realize that the church is not just who we are, but it is also the mission to which we have been called?
- What are we to do with our calling? What does it mean to "declare the praises"?
- Where were we before Christ called us? To where has He called us?
- When do you first remember really feeling the mercy of God? How should our calling shape the way that we look at ourselves, other Christians, and the entire world?
- How are you living out your calling in the places where God has given you influence? What are we missing if we do not live out our calling?

APPLICATION

- 1 Which do you struggle with the most, knowing that you are called to the mission of God or living out that calling? How will you change the way you live this week based on your calling?
- 2 The church is not just individual living stones, but a group of them mortared together. How can we pursue unity and purpose for our church in this group?
- 3 Do you have any friends, family, or colleagues to whom you can demonstrate the glory of God? What can you do this week to impact their lives?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize 1 Peter 2:4.
- Read 1 Peter 2:1-3 on Monday.
- Read 1 Peter 2:4-10 on Tuesday.
- Read 1 Peter 2:11-12 on Wednesday.
- Read Mark 1:14-20 on Thursday.
- Read Luke 9:18-20 on Friday.
- Read Luke 9:23-27 on Saturday.