

Discussion Questions
Living in a New Household
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1 Peter 2:1-10

Opening Question: Can you think of a time when you were CHOSEN by someone for something? What are some examples of when someone might be CHOSEN (e.g.: A job; team; play; band; family - adoption; romantic relationship)? How did it feel?

- Now, before we move into 1 Peter Chapter 2, let's see what we remember about Chapter 1:
- To whom is Peter writing this letter? Where are they? What are they going through?
- How does Peter tell them they can get through that? (Living hope -- Jesus' resurrection)
- Last week: What kind of lives did Peter tell them they are to live? Why?

1 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV)

A Living Stone and a Holy People

2 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- The wording “put off” is the same as if you were taking off filthy clothes and throwing them away. IMAGINE keeping filthy clothes so you can put them back on! Ridiculous!
- What are the FIVE sins we are to STRIP OFF and THROW AWAY? Let's DEFINE each.
- Verse 1 tells us how NOT to live. What about how TO live? Look at verse 2:
- ...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, (NASB95)
- Question: Why do you think Peter uses the example of “new born babes” and “milk”?
- How do babies feel about bottles? How good are they at letting us know how they feel about bottles?
- That phrase “long for” or “desire” means to “intensely desire” or “crave”
- Ever have a CRAVING? An INTENSE DESIRE? What is that like?
- Imagine the most “intense desire” you can have...that's how we should feel about God's word.
- Someone might say, “I don't really crave spending time in scripture.”
- Question: What does verse 3 say about that?
- If you don't crave or desire to spend time in scripture does that mean you aren't saved?
- Even if you are convinced you are saved but, you don't crave or desire to spend time in scripture, what should you do about it?
- In verse 4 Peter shifts to a metaphor describing the family of God and our place in it.

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

- To get our attention Peter uses an OXYMORON. What is an oxymoron?
- Verse 4: What metaphor and oxymoron does Peter use to describe Jesus?
- Verse 5: How does Peter describe believers in Christ?
- Also in verse 5: What metaphor does he use to describe the family of believers?
- Why does he use the word “living?” Why does he use the image “stone?”
- Why would the imagery of “stones” have been special to Peter?
- Let’s unpack verse 5 a little more.
- The church is a house of stone and each believer is a stone in the structure.
- How does that paint a picture of how we believers should relate to each other?
- In verses 6-8 Peter quotes Old Testament passages referring to Jesus as the “cornerstone” and the “capstone.” What do those terms say to you about Jesus?
- Verse 6 in quoting Isaiah 28:16, what great PROMISE is made to believers in Christ?
- What does that promise mean to you?
- For believers, Jesus is a strong “cornerstone” and “capstone” that holds our structure together. What does verse 8 mean by “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense?”
- Back in verse 5 Peter said believers are not only “living stones” but “a holy priesthood.”
- In the Old Testament, what did priests have that no one else had? Direct access to God.
- Now in verses 9 & 10 Peter summarizes this passage, describing who believers ARE:

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- “...a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession”
- What should that description do for the SELF ESTEEM of believers in Christ?
- What should that description do for our sense of RESPONSIBILITY?
- Look at verse 1. How does that description of who we are in Christ relate to verse 1?

