

Life Group Discussion Guide

Exiles in Our Land: Standing as God's People with God's People
Week 4: Stumbling or Standing? • 1 Peter 2:4-10

Read 1 **Peter 2:4-10** together. Focus on recurring themes, words, and phrases. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Jon's message, what are your initial impressions or takeaways? What stood out to you most?

Come to the Living Stone

1 Peter 2:4-5 Peter used birth as an image of Christians coming to faith in Christ; here in chapter 2 he introduces new imagery to his readers—Christ the living stone and His people as living stones.

- Why does he call Jesus the living stone? Read through the following passages: Deut. 32:3-18; Psalm 28:1; Matt. 16:15-18
- Peter quotes three Old Testament passages referring to a special stone. Read Ps 118:22-23, Isaiah 8:13-14, and Isaiah 28:16. What are some of the words used to describe this stone?
- Explain what it means that Jesus is both a stumbling stone and the cornerstone.

Embrace His People

1 Peter 1:4-5, 9-10 God has his own building project, and in His building project He places a living stone in Zion, His son, His king. Everyone who puts their trust in him will never be put to shame and also becomes living stones being built into a spiritual house.

- How does this impact our view on the local church body? How does this affect how we see the global Church?
- List the defining characteristics of God's people in 1 Peter 1:9. Why would these descriptions be shocking to Peter's audience?
- What is the purpose of God's people? (vs 9)
- Pastor Jon says no one can love Jesus without loving His church. Explain.

If Jesus is precious to you, so are His people.

Jesus is the most precious to God; He is His Son with the highest worth. Because He is precious to God, He is precious to us. Because He is precious to us, we are precious to God. Embracing Him means embracing His people. One way that we demonstrate embracing His people is through church membership.

- Why does church membership matter? What would you say to someone who rejects the idea of membership?

- Verse 10 of chapter 1 says, "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." Meditate on these truths about your true identity and how they should impact your thought life and actions this week.

