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## Living Stones 1 Peter 2:4-12 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In 1 Peter 2 we are described as living stones. Peter is speaking to the Christians living abroad that make up the church. He refers to Jesus as the cornerstone and then goes on to remind the church of its role. We are all called to be living stones that make up the church. We are to be a holy people offering spiritual sacrifices. We are set apart with the purpose of proclaiming the virtues of God. So what does it mean for us to be the people of God, a holy priesthood? How are we all living stones? This week we will explore how we are all called to be part of the church; together we become the spiritual house, the bride of Christ, a people of His own.

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.

1 Peter 2:5 ESV

## 1 Peter 2:4-12 New English Translation

### A Living Stone, a Chosen People

<sup>4</sup> So as you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but chosen and precious in God's sight, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves, as living stones, are built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood and to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it says in scripture, "**Look, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and whoever believes in him will never be put to shame.**" <sup>7</sup> So you who believe see his value, but for those who do not believe, **the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,** <sup>8</sup> and a

**stumbling-stone and a rock to trip over.** They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own*, so that you may *proclaim the virtues* of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> You once were **not a people**, but now you are God's people. You were **shown no mercy**, but now you have received mercy.

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you as foreigners and exiles to keep away from fleshly desires that do battle against the soul, <sup>12</sup> and maintain good conduct among the non-Christians, so that though they now malign you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God when he appears.

#### 🕯 EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. Who is the cornerstone?

9. Who are the living stones? In what way? What does this mean?

10. What does it mean for us today to be a holy priesthood?

11. What does it mean that the living stones are being built into a spiritual house?

12. Come up with a 3 word title for this section that points to Peter's main idea.

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**Why does this MATTER to me?**

13. How do we make spiritual sacrifices? What does that look like in your life?

14. How can our church proclaim the virtues of God to our community?

15. What does this passage challenge us to do as a church?

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES