

WARM-UP

- Tell us how you answered this question when you were young: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Did this eventually change?
- Tell us about a time when you felt special. What made you feel that way and how did you respond?
- Do you have a favorite story that has a redemption arc or complete turnaround of circumstances? Tell us about it.

WORD *⁶For 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.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. **1 PETER 2:6-8***

Peter was writing to Christians who were suffering persecution and rejection because of their faith in Christ. In their frustration and discouragement, the apostle Peter reminded them: Jesus is our cornerstone, and those who believe in Him *will not be put to shame*. In Christ, we can be stable and sure regardless of our circumstances. What does Jesus being our cornerstone mean for us who believe?

1 | We have been set apart for God.

*⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God **chosen** and **precious**, ⁵you 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 2:4-5*

Peter encouraged believers with the truth that we are set apart as a holy priesthood from the sinful world. Even as we live in the world, we are to reflect God's holiness, putting away all sin—malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander (1 Peter 2:1)—for He who called us is holy (1 Peter 1:15). The world will look at us and treat us differently. But as God's holy priesthood, we have been given direct and full access to Him. We are at the forefront of offering sacrifices and praises to God. How does this encourage you to pursue a holy life?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2 | We have been given a new identity.

*. . . ⁵you 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. . . . ⁹But 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. 1 PETER 2:5, 9*

In Christ, this is who we are to God: a spiritual house, a holy and royal priesthood, a chosen race, a holy nation, God's own people. It is the blood of Christ that marks us as His people. We no longer have to live for only ourselves, looking out for our own interest, or treating each other

as enemies. In Christ, we don't have to fight for our place because we each belong to His family and now we pursue a higher purpose and calling. This means we can protect each other's identity as we live in a community of loving, life-giving relationships and pursue holiness together. Who are you walking with? How are they helping you live out your identity in God?

3 | We are sent out to proclaim God's excellencies.

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. **1 PETER 2:9**

Ultimately, our being set apart and our new identity help us live out our purpose in Christ. We are called to *proclaim His excellencies* throughout the earth. This is our mission, and we do this by going out to preach the gospel, pointing others to Christ, our cornerstone and salvation, and living lives that reflect His goodness. In pursuing God's mission and proclaiming His excellencies, we continue to follow Jesus and walk in community. How does following Jesus and fellowshiping with other believers lead us to fishing for men and reaching the lost? Why do we need all three in discipleship?

APPLICATION

- Now that we are set apart for Christ, are there areas in your life that need to be surrendered to Him? How can you reflect His holiness in these areas?
- How are you living out your identity in God? What are some of the hindrances to this? What is one thing you can do this week to begin overcoming these obstacles?
- To whom do you think God is calling you to proclaim His excellencies? How can you prepare yourself to do so in the coming days?

PRAYER

- Thank God for setting you apart as His child and for the purpose He has called you to. Pray that you will endure in your identity in Him and persevere in His calling.
- Ask God to continue to remind you of your identity in Him and that you have a spiritual family that will help you walk toward Christlikeness.
- Pray for the people you want to share your testimony with or preach the gospel to. As you seek Him, ask God to give you compassion, boldness, and the right words to say.



VICTORY

Honor God. Make Disciples.

© 2022 by VICTORY®
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Contributor: Chrysse Manuel

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.
victory.org.ph