SCATTERED · HEAR LEADER'S GUIDE · SESSION 3

1 Peter 2:1–10 Living stones, a people for God

45–60 MINUTES
ANY SMALL GROUP
ONLINE OR IN PERSON

The big idea. Peter gives scattered believers a new identity in pictures: newborns hungry for God's word, living stones built together on Christ the rejected cornerstone, a chosen people and royal priesthood. People with no place in the world are told they are God's own house, joined to each other and called to proclaim his light.

Who this is for. Anyone leading a small group through this passage: a Discord voice channel, a Zoom room, a home group, a youth group. You don't need to be a pastor. Your job is to keep the group in the text and make room for everyone to speak.

Before you meet

- Read 1 Peter 2:1–10 twice this week, once out loud.
- Watch the moments from this week's session linked below, or the whole replay at https://thechurch.digital/scattered/ if you have time.
- Pray for each person by name. In an online group, check that everyone has the link and can unmute.

HEAR in one line each

- **Highlight**: the phrase that stops you.
- **Explain**: what it meant to its first readers.
- **Apply**: not taught; answer what people notice from the text.
- **Respond**: one thing you'll do, and a prayer.

· Open — 5 MIN

Welcome everyone. Ask each person to name one place they belong, online or in person, and what makes it feel like home. Open in prayer, or ask someone ahead of time to pray.

· Read — 5 MIN

Read the passage aloud twice, with two different voices. If your group uses different translations, let them; hearing two wordings helps. Ask people to listen for the stones and for the words Peter uses to name who they are.

H Highlight — 10 MIN

Go around: which verse or phrase stood out to you, and why? Don't explain anything yet. Just collect the highlights.

1. Which phrase caught you, and what did you feel when you heard it?
2. Which picture fits you best this week: the newborn, the living stone, or the chosen people?

Listen for: In this week's session people picked verse 2 (newborns who depend completely on God), verse 5 (living stones, all connected), verse 7 (the stone the builders rejected), verse 9 ("a peculiar people" in the KJV) and verse 10 (once not a people, now God's people). Any of these opens a good conversation.

WATCH Will on verse 2: newborns, 100% dependent on God (26:15–27:23): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KjxJZmJufE&t=1575s

E Explain — 10 MIN

Now ask what it meant to the people who first read it. Use the background below only as much as the group needs; this isn't a lecture.

1. Peter's readers had been pushed out and passed over. Why would "the stone the builders rejected" have meant so much to them?
2. Verse 9 borrows words God first spoke to Israel at Sinai. What does it say that Peter gives them to scattered believers from every background?

WATCH David's Daily Show on verse 7: not rejected, not even considered (44:25–45:15): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KjxJZmJufE&t=2665s

A Apply — 15 MIN

Don't teach the application. People will start to say what they notice for their own lives. When they do, respond by taking it back to the passage: "Where do you see that in these verses?" Read that verse again together and let Scripture confirm, sharpen or gently correct it. The text does the work, not the leader.

Respond

10 MIN

> Ask each person: what is God asking you to do with this? Keep it to one concrete thing for this week. Then pray for each other's responses, briefly and by name.
>
> 1. What is one thing you'll do this week because of this passage?
> 2. Which living stone beside you will you strengthen this week, and how?

The passage

BSB

[1] Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. [2] Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, [3] now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. [4] As you come to Him, the living stone, rejected by men but chosen and precious in God's sight, [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. [6] For it stands in Scripture: "See, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone; and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame." [7] To you who believe, then, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone 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—and to this they were appointed. [9] But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous 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.

Going deeper

> The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. **Psalm 118:22 (BSB)**

The line Peter quotes in verse 7, a line Jesus applied to himself.

> And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites." **Exodus 19:6 (BSB)**

"A kingdom of priests and a holy nation": spoken first to Israel at Sinai, echoed in verse 9.

> And I will sow her as My own in the land, and I will have compassion on 'No Compassion.' I will say to those called 'Not My People,' 'You are My people,' and they will say, 'You are my God.'" **Hosea 2:23 (BSB)**

The promise behind verse 10: those called "not my people" are named God's people.

Notes for the leader

- Silence is fine. Count to ten before you fill it.
- In an online group, call on people by name, gently. Chat-only voices count: read their typed answers aloud.
- If someone shares something heavy, like grief, a crisis or thoughts of self-harm, pause the study and care for the person first. If anyone is in danger, contact local emergency services. In the US you can call or text 988. Outside the US, https://findahelpline.com lists local lines.
- Talk of being rejected can stir real hurt. If it does, listen first, then go back to verses 4 and 7: the stone people rejected is the one God chose and called precious.

Next week. 1 Peter 2:11–25, foreigners and exiles who live honorably where they are, even when they are misunderstood. Find the next session at https://thechurch.digital/scattered/.

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain · theChurch.digital