

Session 3: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gather

Check-In:

- Share any reflections or questions from the sermon on Sunday.
- The session Scripture text compares Jesus to a rock or stone. What do you think about this? Choose a word or title that describes Jesus in a meaningful way for you.

Pray

*Jesus, we are gathered,
Jesus, we are gathered,
Jesus, we are gathered,
We are gathered, Lord Jesus, for you!*

Jesus, we are gathered here for you. Open our minds and tongues to discussion. Open our eyes and ears to your word, that we might be your holy people in the world. Amen

Open Scripture

Read 1 Peter 2:2-10

- What images come to mind as you hear this text?
- What question would you ask the author of 1 Peter, if you could?
- What emotions do you experience as you hear this text? What words trigger these emotions?

Join the Conversation

Historical Context

1. It is most likely that the churches who first received this letter were faced with the tension between Christianity and the Greco-Roman culture in that place and time.
 - **Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.** Discuss how these words might have sounded to Roman rulers, and to the people addressed by this letter.
 - How do these verses sound to you? What, if any, effect does your situation or experience have on this?
2. The Roman Empire was both skilled and prolific in its building of roads and other stone infrastructure, such as aqueducts and bridges. The people of Israel were also quite adept at stone work—the temple in Jerusalem stood in testimony to that. It is even speculated that Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, may have been more of a stone mason than a carpenter of wood, since trees were scarce in that area.

The living stone in 1 Peter is Christ, but we are to be living stones as well, build into a spiritual house—the church. Jesus is the cornerstone of that house—a stone that can be built upon to form us into God's own people.

- How does this image of the cornerstone support the author's point about Jesus and the church?

Literary Context

Choose one of the following Old Testament passages.

Identify the words or phrases in 1 Peter 2:2-10 that relate to these passages.

Exodus 19:5-6

Isaiah 8:14

Deuteronomy 32:18

Isaiah 28:16

Psalms 118:22

Isaiah 43:20-21

Like the first readers, we are Gentiles, non-Jewish believers. How do these echoes of similar images for the Lord from the Hebrew Scriptures resonate for you?

Lutheran Context

1. One principle for Lutherans in reading and interpreting the Bible is “what shows forth Christ.” Using this principle we ask, “What do we learn about the nature, role, and work of Christ from the text?”

- Look at 1 Peter 2:6–8. What does this passage say about Jesus through the metaphor of Christ as a stone, especially as a “living” stone?

Devotional Context

What does it mean to be “God’s own people” in our time and place?

Pray

O Lord God, our rock, O Jesus, our living stone, make us your holy people, and in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen

You are a holy people, called out of darkness into God’s marvelous light! Go in peace to serve the Lord.

Homework

Read 1 Peter 2: 19-25

Think about the various roles you have in your life. To which of these roles do you feel you were called, that almost chose you more than you chose them?