

**Focus passage: 1 Peter 2:1-10**

**4** As you come to him, the living Stone —rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—  
**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 in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

**7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

**8** and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

**9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful 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.

*What stands out to you from this passage?*

*Who is the living Stone, and how are we to be like living stones? What do you think this means?*

*What is the significance of a cornerstone? How do we understand that Christ is the cornerstone?*

*However we are built up as living stones, everything must be built upon Christ, the cornerstone. What does it look like to either reject him or to make him the cornerstone? What happens if we build without a solid foundation?*

*In the end of this passage, Peter describes his readers’ past compared to their present condition. What are the differences?*

*In verse 10, Peter references the story of Hosea in which God uses Hosea and his unfaithful wife to represent God’s own love for an unfaithful Israel. God has Hosea give his children names that represent Israel’s alienation from God, but later changes those names to represent God’s promise of restoration. **Read Hosea 2:14-23** to see this promise.*

***Read and discuss Ephesians 2:13-22** for more on how God has made us, who were once not his people, his people and what it means for us to be living stones. How would the Gentiles receive this news that they are now God’s people, too?*

*How can you apply this Scripture to your life?*

