

EXILES

MAIN POINT:

**Admit you've already got a cornerstone.
Find Him, the Cornerstone, precious.
Unite with Him, the Cornerstone.**

EXPLORATION:

- 1. Read 1 Peter 2:4-12. In verse 5, what does it mean that “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house”? What does this mean for your life in Christian community? What would happen if some of the stones in the stone wall were removed?**
(Context Clues: Only 1 time in the New Testament is the Greek word for “temple” or “spiritual house” used singular (1 Cor. 6:19). Every other time, including 1 Peter 2:5 it is used plural which means the emphasis on Christ building Christians up is collectively.)
- 2. Read 1 Peter 2:9 again. Discuss what each of the phrases mean:**
 - A. A Chosen Race
 - B. A Royal Priesthood
 - C. A Holy Nation
 - D. A People for His Own Possession
 - E. Called Out of Darkness into His Marvelous Light
- 3. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12 again. Discuss the tension that must be maintained between the church and the world around it. How do we as the Church walk the line of not assimilating/conforming into the world but also not separating/attacking the world?**
(Context Clues: The answer to the above is found in verses 11-12. “Keeping our conduct honorable....they may see your good deeds” while also “as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh...”)
- 4. Read 1 Peter 2:6 again. What is the significance of the word “cornerstone” in building terms? Discuss this concept in light of Christ being the “Cornerstone”.**
(Context Clues: Peter is quoting from Isaiah 28)

APPLICATION:

- 1. Consider Peter’s illustration of believers “being built up into a spiritual house like living stones”. Are you built into the lives of other believers to the extent that if you stopped coming things might affect how others are being built up? Do you have and are you experiencing true biblical community? Why or why not?**
- 2. Do you feel the tension that we are to maintain between the church and the world around it? What are some ways that you are acting as a “resident alien” the way the Church should? What are some ways or areas of your life where you might adjust to be a “resident alien”?**
- 3. Consider the 3 applications to “Come to the Cornerstone” below. Have you moved through all 3 of these steps? Where do you find yourself now? Is Christ your Cornerstone?**
 1. Admit you already have a cornerstone.
 2. Find Him, the Cornerstone, precious.
 3. Unite with Him, the Cornerstone.
- 4. Close in prayer and specifically pray that everyone in your small group or family would find Christ, the Cornerstone, precious and that all would unite with Him.**