



Connect Discussion Guide

5.30.21 Message | Tyler Nobis | 1 Peter 2:4-5

Key Scriptures:

And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

- Genesis 28:11-19

When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'" Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

- Joshua 4:1-7

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you 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

Message Highlights:

- The Bible tells story after story of the Israelites building monuments to remember what God had done for them.

- The monuments they built prompted people to ask, “What happened here?” They served as a testimony to others, proclaiming the faithfulness, love and power of God.
- Today, stories of life change serve the same purpose; they are “monuments” that point people to God.
- Saying yes to the fully-immersed life means having every part of your life baptized...not just your Sunday mornings.
- As followers of Christ, our lives and our testimonies of transformation are to become monuments that point to Christ, “living stones” that cause people to ask, “What happened here?”

Conversation Starter:

- Are you comfortable sharing your testimony? Have you ever felt like you don’t have a significant transformation story, like Tyler talked about? Discuss why it is important to know and share our unique testimony with others.

Discuss the Message:

1. Has anyone ever asked you a version of “What happened here?” Tell an example of a time when you observed or were a part of an act of faith that exemplified Paul’s statement, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil 1:21).
2. The Bible contains multiple stories about the Israelites building monuments made of stones purposed to serve as a token of remembrance of God’s faithfulness. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:4-5 that we are like living stones, “being built into a spiritual house.” Reread these verses with your group and discuss the ways that we are like living stones, and why that bears significance.
3. Meditate and expand on Tyler’s remark, “If saying yes to this immersed life only means saying no to things, then we have cheapened the cross.” In what ways does the immersed life unleash you to say yes to so much more than you are leaving behind?
4. Joshua 4:1-7 tells the story of the standing stones that signified the Lord’s miraculous parting of the Jordan before the ark of the covenant. Share stories with your group of times when the Lord has “parted the sea” in your life, making a way for you where you previously thought there was no way.
5. Saying yes to the immersed life means having every part of your life baptized (your wallet, your time, your energy, etc.) Is there a part of your life you need to loosen your grip on in order to allow God to move more mightily through it? Discuss with your group.

Pray:

Father in Heaven, thank you for the multitude of times when you have come through for us. Thank you for the moments when you have made a way when there was no other way. We remember and praise you for your faithfulness in our lives. We are grateful that you never leave us as you find us. Instead, you transform us into a new creation. Embolden us by your Holy Spirit to embrace the testimony you have given each of us. Help us live a fully-immersed life in such a way that it leads others to believe in life change and to seek your Son, Jesus. Amen.