

2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

Discussion Guide

Morning Sermon: Building A Spiritual House: Review Matthew 7:24-28 and 1 Peter 2:1-10
Peter is writing to the church that is going through hard times because they are being ostracized by society for their Christian faith.

Question: Can you give practical examples of you or someone you know being ostracized at work, in the family, or in the neighborhood for their faith in Christ?

In chapter 1, Peter ties holiness to hardship by calling us to NOT to shout at the darkness around us but rather to shine our light at it.

Question: In 1 Peter 2— how does verse 1 describe holy behavior?

Question: You find out at work that co-workers are mocking you because you don't swear and refuse to go out and get drunk with them...how do you "feel" like responding? How does verse 1 teach you to respond?

Question: Give a personal example of how you could be more holy at work.

Peter describes holy living for all who have "tasted that the Lord is good" as being "built up into a spiritual house" (verse 5). The best way to endure hardship from society is to be part of a strong spiritual house (that stands when the winds blow). In teaching us about presenting ourselves as "living stones" that are being built into a spiritual house for God's glory, Peter teaches us two things:

1. Our Desire For God's Word Is The Framework Of The Spiritual House

Verse 2: Like a baby yearns for milk to physically grow, we are to yearn for God's Word to spiritually grow.

Question: Can you give examples of how, over the years, your church has helped you fulfill your desire for pure spiritual milk so you can grow?

Question: In what ways has Life Groups helped you desire and grow in the Word?

But the framework of any house needs to sit on a foundation!

2. Our Delight In God's Son Is The Foundation Of The Spiritual House

Peter says that when we offer praise to Jesus, it is acceptable (pleasing) to God because Jesus, the cornerstone of our church, is precious to God. Our sacrificial attendance at church does not make us acceptable to God, rather it is the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf that makes us acceptable to God. It is in the light of His great work of redemption that we devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the Lord who saved us.

Question: Remember, when Jesus is precious to you, then you are precious to God. How can we not just "go to church" but actually delight in God's Son when we are at church at any gathering?

The house of living stones is not built until the living stones come together.

Questions: What reasons do Christians give for not coming together?

Question: Give personal examples of how you could do a better job of "coming together" to build our spiritual house for God's glory, NOT because pastors say you ought to, or to earn God's favor for the week, or to make you feel that you are a better Christian than others...but simply because you delight in God's Son and desire God's Word?

For Personal Reflection and Personal Commitment:

Self-Assessment Time: So that you may stand when the winds of hardship blow, are you devoting yourself wholeheartedly to the Lord and to building His house?

Getting In Line With The Gospel: Since Jesus died for you so that you could live a holy life that glorifies God, what does the Spirit of God convict you about putting off because it is unholy? What does the Spirit of God convict you about putting on so that your life brings God glory.

Call To Action: So that you may stand when the winds of hardship blow, what are you going to do this week, by God's grace, to show that Jesus is precious to you and to live worthy of the Gospel?

Pray: Confessing that you are weak and need God's grace to live a life that glorify Him. Pray that God will give you grace to desire His Word and to delight in His Son.