

Living Stones in a Spiritual Temple

1 Peter 2:1 - 12

Devotional Reading: Galatians 3:23 - 29

Background Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1 - 17

LESSON AIMS: the students will:

- **Identify** the stone in Zion
- **Explain** the relationship between Christians as “living stones” and Jesus as “the living Stone”
- **Propose** a way to guard himself or herself against unholy behaviors

INTRODUCTION: Peter wrote to the early church, who had difficulty expressing their faith because of the opposition in their community. These believers were undergoing some form of suffering and with that, several trials tested their faith. They were spoken against as evil doers. Many were abused, reviled, and persecuted. Peter encouraged, however, that as people of God, they were not to return evil for evil.

KEY VERSE: *5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*
1 Peter 2:5

LESSON:

Sanctified People

1 Peter 2:1 - 3

Spiritual House

verses 4 - 8

Summary: Peter wanted his readers to get back to basics. God has given us His Word. He sacrificed His Son for our salvation. Our duty is to take an about face. Get rid of worldly ways and walk as the Word tells us. The kind of holiness Peter envisions for every believer moves toward maturity in union with Jesus. Christ was a living stone. People had rejected Him, but He was chosen and precious to God. The children of God, the people to whom Peter was writing, were other stones. In union with Christ, the living stone, these other stones were framed into a new spiritual house, a new temple, as a dwelling place for God [Summers, 155].

Questions:

1. *What criteria should you use to determine which vice is the most troubling to you personally?*
2. *What action must you take to keep growing spiritually?*
3. *How will the realization of your priestly responsibilities affect your prayer life?*

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DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
Mon., Aug. 25 th	A Sure Foundation	Isaiah 28:14 – 22
Tue., Aug. 26 th	Let Us Enter the Lord's House	Psalms 122
Wed., Aug. 27 th	Offer a Sacrifice of Thanksgiving	Psalms 50:1 – 15
Thurs., Aug. 28 th	One in Christ Jesus	Galatians 3:23 - 29
Fri., Aug. 29 th	One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism	Ephesians 4:4 – 16
Sat., Aug. 30 th	Everlasting Joy of the Ransomed	Isaiah 51:9 – 16
Sun., Aug. 31 st	Rejected by Mortals, Chosen by	1 Peter 2:1 -12