



WOODLAND HEIGHTS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Cornerstone Effect Part #1 – The Cornerstone of Faith

Small Group Discussion Guide on 1 Peter 2:4-10

Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on 1 Peter 2:4-10 directly connects with the core value of **Biblical Authority** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. This core value is about equipping your life with the Word of God to live a life that honors the Lord and gives Him glory with your words, actions, example, and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

This sermon's focus on Jesus as the "Chief Cornerstone" emphasizes the importance of the discipleship journey of every Christians. Living in pursuit of Biblical authority for your life equips you to align your life with His purpose, invest in eternity, and pass on timeless principles of faith to others.

The Big Idea, "Making Jesus the Cornerstone of Your Life Sets a Foundation for Eternal Impact," encourages believers to deepen their walk with Christ, equipping them to honor God in every area of life and fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

"Observing God's Word"

Imagine an ancient architect in the shadow of a grand temple, carefully selecting and placing the very first stone—the cornerstone—that will determine every angle, every measurement, and the strength of the entire structure rising around it. One misalignment, and the walls could lean, the arches collapse under their own weight. But set it true, and the building stands for centuries, a marvel of enduring stability.

This illustration showcases the profound role of the cornerstone in 1 Peter 2:4-10. Jesus, the "living stone," is that perfect foundation, chosen by God, upon which we, as living stones, are precisely aligned to form a spiritual house that withstands any trial. As you read this passage, notice how God calls us to build our lives upon Christ, ensuring every part of our faith, family, and purpose fits securely into His eternal design.

Let's start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10 as a group, family, or an individual, letting God's Word sink in. Picture the scene: Believers, like living stones, being built upon the solid rock of Christ to form a spiritual house offering sacrifices of faith.

Core Questions

- What do you notice about the words, phrases, and imagery Peter uses in this passage? Why is this relevant for Christians today?

- What is the main lesson or lessons that you learn about the character of God from 1 Peter 2:4-10?
- What do you learn about the importance of placing Christ as the Cornerstone of your life and faith from these verses?

Section #2 – EXPLORE

“Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

Let’s unpack the sermon’s foundational truth – making Jesus the "Chief Cornerstone" of our lives – with questions that connect the message’s insights to our hearts. Discuss these as a group or reflect on them as an individual.

Quote – “Christ is the cornerstone of the church, and without Him, the whole structure crumbles.” – **A.W. Tozer**

- What does the quote from A.W. Tozer teach us today? Why is this an important lesson to remember?

The Unshaken Flag: A Cornerstone Story (1 Peter 2:4-6)

The sermon opens with the story of Fort McHenry, where a defiant flag became the cornerstone of resolve amid a relentless bombardment, inspiring a nation to stand firm.

This illustration highlights the importance of the most important cornerstone for your life: Jesus as the “living stone” – rejected by men but chosen by God – as the foundation for our faith.

- How does the flag’s symbolism parallel Jesus’ role as the cornerstone in 1 Peter 2:4-6?
- Have you ever experienced a moment where fixing your eyes on Christ helped you endure a personal storm?
- In what ways does 1 Peter 2:4-6 encourage you as a Christian today?

Building on the Rock: The Role of the Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:7-8)

Peter describes the cornerstone as the first stone laid, setting the angle, strength, and direction of the entire structure. The sermon emphasizes that believers are “living stones” built upon Christ, aligned to His purpose.

- What does this teach us about the importance of making Jesus the foundation of our daily lives?
- How can you align your life more intentionally with Christ’s purpose, even when it feels challenging?
- How does the quote from D.L. Moody apply to these verses?

Quote – “The foundation of God stands sure, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His.” – **D.L. Moody**

A Chosen People: Eternal Impact (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Peter calls believers a “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,” once in darkness but now called into God’s marvelous light. The sermon challenges us to live intentionally, passing on these principles to transform our communities.

- What does this reveal about our identity in Christ and our role in His mission?
- How can we offer “spiritual sacrifices” in our everyday lives to honor God?

Section #3 – EMBRACE

“Applying God’s Word”

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you’ve learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from 1 Peter 2:4-10.

- **Identify Your Foundation:** Examine your life—faith, family, work, generosity. Where might Jesus not be the cornerstone? Write down one specific area and a step to realign it with Christ this week, such as daily Scripture reading or prayer for guidance.
- **Practice Building Together:** Like living stones, we’re built into a spiritual house. Reach out to a fellow believer this week—perhaps someone new at church—and encourage them in their faith. Discuss with the group how small acts of connection strengthen the body of Christ.
- **Share the Light:** Peter reminds us we’re called out of darkness into light. Commit to sharing your testimony or a verse about Christ’s foundation with one person this week. Brainstorm ways to pass on these timeless principles in your community.
- **Memorize and Reflect:** Memorize the sermon’s key verse, 1 Peter 2:6 (ESV): “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” Reflect on how building on Christ brings eternal security. Share with the group how this verse inspires you to stand firm.

Closing Challenge and Prayer

As a group, pray for one another to make Jesus the cornerstone of every area of life. Encourage each member to take at least one action step above and follow up next week to share how God worked through your obedience. Consider joining a discipleship class or inviting someone to small group to grow together in building on the Rock.