



READ | PETER 2:1-6

Get rid of all evil behavior, like deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and mean comments. Try to crave spiritual nourishment like newborn babies crave milk.

Jesus was chosen by God to be the living cornerstone of God's temple, even though he was rejected by the people. You are living stones in this temple, too.

BUILDING THE CHURCH: WHO'S IN?

We are now living the resurrection. Jesus has risen and now we are left to figure out what to do about it. What does it mean to be resurrection people? How do we interpret Jesus' teachings? How do his words then affect us now? How do we build the church?

Who is the church we're building, both literally and figuratively, for? Is the resurrection that we proclaim a gift, miracle, or promise just for you personally, or is it for the church collectively? Or is it for the whole community, regardless of who they are, what they believe, and where they come from? Who's in? Who's out? Why is an honest conversation about these questions necessary and important? Will we dare to have these conversations? Why, or why not? How do our answers to those questions affect our next steps?

And how do we get excited about this risky journey ahead? How do we inspire each other to give our best selves to this risky endeavor, this unseen future? Can we step boldly forward in to the unseen, believing that God will somehow hold us up? Can we all move forward together as a team? Who's in?!

NEXT WEEK: Acts 8:26-39

 **WONDER**

DAY 1: What are the "basics" of the Christian faith? What is essential? How do those things nourish us and help us grow?

 **WONDER**

DAY 2: What does it mean to crave and cry out for spiritual nourishment? Are you as passionate about your spiritual growth as a baby is about milk? Is that kind of passion necessary? Why, or why not?

 **RELATIONSHIP**

DAY 3: Do you think your faith community is collectively passionate about spiritual growth and aliveness? Do you crave opportunities to ask hard questions, take risks, worship without abandon, and serve other people? Why, or why not?

 **PROGRESS**

DAY 4: What happens when an entire group of people craves hard questions, risks, worship and service the same way they crave food and air? What becomes possible? Can a group like that create immense energy and momentum? Can a group like that create "miracles"? Do you think that's what the church is supposed to look like? Why, or why not? If you're not there yet, how do you think your faith community become as passionate as this story describes? What specific steps can you take?

 **SURPRISE**

DAY 5: Is Paul telling us to be good for goodness' sake? Should we cry out for the basics, should we be done with all of our jealousy and unkind words, just because it's the right thing to do? Or is there more to it than that? What?

 **PRESENCE**

DAY 6: What does it mean that Christ is the cornerstone of the temple? Does God live only in the temple, or only in a church building? Could God also live in a poor urban neighborhood, or in a science lab, or in a war zone, or in a Walmart parking lot? In your office, your home, your school? Is there anywhere God is not? How does that impact the passion we bring to our building plans? What is our building really about? Why are we building it?

 **PROGRESS**

DAY 7: What do you think it means to be living stones in God's temple? How does that concept affect the trajectory of our faith community? Will our new building alone ensure that our faith community will thrive for generations to come? Or do we need to be growing and thriving, committed to revealing the heart of God? How do we get there? How can you become a living stone in this temple?