

Resilient

Scripture and Background Information for March 12-18.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

1 Peter is written to help Christ-followers thrive in the midst of a world under pressure. They were struggling to navigate a world where they were a spiritual, political, and social minority. They were suffering to the point they had even started to turn on each other at home and at church. Peter wrote to show them how to live with resilience: why we need it, where to find it, what it looks like, and what to do with it when you've got it.

Background for 1 Peter 2:4-10:

At the beginning of 1 Peter, it is clear that the recipients of this letter are experiencing great struggle within the world they live. Because of persecution that they faced, they are now living in unfamiliar places amidst unfamiliar people. This causes even more hardship as they try to navigate their lives in areas that don't feel like home and seem like they may never feel like home. But Peter reminds them, that they have a hope in eternity that can help them persevere through their present circumstances and he calls each of them to love one another in the way that Christ loved them.

In our passage for today, Peter continues to cast vision and he gives them three images of how to navigate their new worlds. The first is the image of a house. Peter calls them to be living stones that are built up around Christ as the cornerstone to make a spiritual house that is centered on Jesus and the desire to carry out His ministry. The second image is of a holy priesthood. This image calls us to action in the world, representing Christ to those who don't know him. The last image is that of a chosen race and a holy nation. This means that, as God's people, we are meant to live in a way that honors God for who He is and praises Him for the mercy that He has shown us.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. Throughout this passage, Jesus is described as different types of stones. What does it mean that He is a living stone? A cornerstone? A stone of stumbling and offense? How do these images affect your view of who God is?
2. As you look at the three images Peter calls us to be (spiritual house, holy priesthood, and chosen race) which one stands out to you the most? Why? Do you feel like it is easy or hard to live up to these images today? Why?
3. In verse 10, it says that we are now God's people. How does God's mercy make us His people? What do you think it means to be God's people? How do we live that out in our world today?