

## **IDENTITY: Who in The World Are We?**

*Got Hope? Messages from 1 Peter*

March 13 & 14, 2010

1 Peter 2:4-12

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

**oWe are connected in Christ.**

*Think of what it means to be part of  
something \_\_\_\_\_ than*

!

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,”<sup>8</sup> and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**oWe are the people of God.**

*Think of what it means to belong to  
\_\_\_\_\_ who*

!

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**oWe have something vital to do.**

*Think of what it means to live in a  
way that leads others to*

!

## Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Do you remember what it was like to be a teenager? How did you define yourself back then? What was the basis of your identity?
2. How did your thinking change as you became an adult? Did you take advantage of the transition as an opportunity to reinvent yourself?
3. 1 Peter 2:4-12 includes several quotations from the Old Testament. What do these Scriptures say about our identity?
4. How does this portion of 1 Peter fit into the overall theme of the letter? What is Peter trying to accomplish in these verses?
5. Examine each of the images Peter uses to describe our identity. Which one contains the strongest implications for your life? What are you motivated to be or to do?
6. List the contrasting responses and consequences found in verses 6-8. Why do people reject Christ? For more advanced study, look up these other New Testament passages which also quote the Old Testament and refer to Christ as a stumbling block: Matt. 21:33-46; Romans 9:30-33; and 1 Cor. 1:18-25.
7. Verse 9 mentions how God called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. What a cool concept! Explore it more in Col. 1:13,14. What does this imagery mean to you? How can you start to shine?
8. What do these verses say about the purpose for God's people? How are you involved in living out this role and fulfilling your call?

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### **oWe are the people of God.**

*Think of what it means to belong to someone who loves you!*

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### **oWe have something vital to do.**

*Think of what it means to live in a way that leads others to glorify God!*