

Talk outline

The Meaning of Life

1. Jesus Christ, the Living Stone

2. Christians are those who put their trust in Jesus



Christian identity

1 Peter 2:4-10

The letter so far...

This semester we are reading 1 Peter – a letter from the apostle Peter, to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor in the mid-60s AD. Peter describes Christians as “exiles” or “foreigners” in the world, who endure suffering now but look forward to a glorious future inheritance in heaven. Peter writes to encourage them (and us) to stand firm in God’s grace during our temporary stay in this world (5:12). So far we’ve read about the privileges of salvation, and what it means to belong to God’s family. This week, Peter uses some images from the Old Testament to explain more about the identity and purpose of Jesus and his people...

Icebreaker

What is something (or someone) that is precious to you?

God’s building project

Read 1 Peter 2:4-8.

How does Peter describe Jesus (v4-5)?
What does this mean?

What does God think of this “stone”?

What are the two different ways that people respond to this “stone” (Jesus)?

What is the result of each response?

Holy: *Set apart for a special purpose; totally pure.*

Priesthood: *In the Old Testament, priests were dedicated to God’s service. Their role was to act as a mediator between God and people (telling people God’s word, praying to God for people, offering sacrifices to God for people).*

Cornerstone: *The first and most important stone laid in the foundation of a building.*

How does Peter describe Christian believers? What does this mean?

How do you think these verses would encourage Christians experiencing suffering or persecution?

People with a purpose

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.

In these verses, Peter refers to Exodus 19, which describes a key moment in Israel’s history. The people of God are at Mt Sinai and they are about to receive the 10 Commandments. But first, God describes the identity and purpose of Israel.

Read **Exodus 19:5-6** and find the links with our 1 Peter passage.

Why do you think Peter uses these words to describe Christians in 1 Peter?

What do we learn about our **identity** and **purpose** as Christians?

How can you declare to others all the wonderful things God has done for you?

Pray

Memory verse

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **(1 Peter 2:9)**