

# BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



## FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

*Live Up to Who You Are*  
1 Peter 2:4-10

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

## Leaders' Responsibilities:

**Important:** Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #...). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

## Prior to this Coming Session:

### **Gathering Time Leader:**

Ask a person ahead of time to read the Scripture.

### **Bible Study Leader:**

Have a whiteboard or paper ready for writing. Have a Bible dictionary on hand.

Bring to the study a supply of small, clean stones. Have one ready to give to each person participating in the study. Include the children—along with a suggestion to the

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*Live Up to Who You Are – 24-51-03-en*

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parents to make sure that the stones are not thrown or played with inappropriately by the children.

Ask the person who downloads the session material to make enough copies of the "Take Ten" questionnaire for your teens for each to use during their Bible Study application time. Give those to one of the youth at the beginning of the Youth/Adult Bible Study. If not, they will need a marker and whiteboard or a large sheet of paper on which to write the list. In that case, each teen will also need blank paper and pen to write the answers.

### **Worship Time Leader:**

### **Music Sources:**

**Here I Am to Worship**, *The Worship Hymnal* #130; CCLI #3266032

**Follow On**, CCLI # 98695 Public Domain; 4880565

**Faith is the Victory**, *The Worship Hymnal* #541; CCLI #98688 Public Domain

**He is So Precious to Me**, *The Worship Hymnal* #565; CCLI #31724 Public Domain

**Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**, *The Worship Hymnal* #423; CCLI #15960 Public Domain

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**, *The Worship Hymnal* #154; CCLI #27714 Public Domain

**I Could Sing of Your Love Forever**, *The Worship Hymnal* #116; CCLI #1043199

**How Deep the Father's Love for Us**, *The Worship Hymnal* #101; CCLI #1558110

# 1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

## Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

### *Live Up to Who You Are*

#### **Focal Text**

1 Peter 2:4-10

#### **Background**

1 Peter 2:4-10

#### **Main Idea**

As people who have responded in faith to God's gracious call, Christians are to live up to their identity as God's priesthood by serving God and proclaiming God's greatness.

#### **Question to Explore**

What does the priesthood of believers mean to you?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to explain the meaning of the priesthood of believers and describe implications for their lives.

#### **Gathering together:**

Sing **Here I Am to Worship**, *The Worship Hymnal* #130; CCLI #3266032 and another song from the songs listed under Music Sources or another song known to the group.

Say to the group: The same Peter who wrote 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter was the man to whom Jesus was addressing his comments on the church. Listen:

***“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*** Matthew 16:13-18).

Pray. Lord, you have gathered a part of your church to worship in this place. May we rejoice in what you are about to do in our midst. Amen.

### First thoughts:



(Image by courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London)

### “Livingstone”

When David Livingstone, that greatest of all missionaries, died alone in the heart of Africa, his native porters found him kneeling beside his bed. They removed his heart from his chest and buried it in his beloved Africa. Then they took his body and handed it over to the British authorities. It was transported back to England and laid to rest in Westminster Abbey amid the mourning nation.

A brass plate in the floor marks the spot, and the text tells the tale: “Other sheep have I which are not of this fold, them also must I bring.” Such was his noble epitaph. However, he had another one. One of Britain’s periodicals said it best. Across its front page in banner headlines, it carried the legend:

**Granite may crumble  
But this is LIVINGSTONE!**

Such was the missionary. Such is the Master.<sup>1</sup>  
Living stones are what make up the New Testament church. You are living stones.

### Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won’t need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. pg. 87.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or Worship Time.

# 2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

**Note to the Bible Study Leader:** Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

## Teacher Preparation

### *Live Up to Who You Are*

#### **Focal Text**

1 Peter 2:4-10

#### **Background**

1 Peter 2:4-10

#### **Main Idea**

As people who have responded in faith to God's gracious call, Christians are to live up to their identity as God's priesthood by serving God and proclaiming God's greatness.

#### **Question to Explore**

What does the priesthood of believers mean to you?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to explain the meaning of the priesthood of believers and describe implications for their lives.

#### **Introduction to your personal study:**

These verses tell us that Jesus gives spiritual maturity to the church.<sup>2</sup> As you come to Christ you become like Him. It is a spiritual identity that is apparent to those in this mortal world. The church is a spiritual entity made up of Christ and believers. It is more than the visible mortar and brick, wood and steel. Christ is the head and believers are priests who offer spiritual sacrifices.

“There was a famous story from Sparta. A Spartan king boasted to a visiting monarch about the walls of Sparta. The visiting monarch looked around and he saw no walls. He said to the Spartan king, ‘Where are these walls about which you speak and boast

<sup>2</sup> Robert L. Hamblin, “Triumphant Strangers, A Contemporary Look at First Peter”, Broadman Press, Nashville, TN, 1973, pg. 54.

so much?’ The Spartan king pointed at his bodyguard of magnificent Spartan troops. ‘These,’ he said, ‘are the walls of Sparta, and every man of them a brick.’”<sup>3</sup>

The visible church has a place in God’s eternal plan. Peter is bringing into focus practical characteristics of His church. It is a ministering church that reveals the glory of God.

As you study this passage you will see how Christ sets before you the nature and the function of the church.<sup>4</sup>

Believers need a steady diet of the Word to be ready for challenges. Not only individuals face trials but so does the church. Individuals grow with a steady healthy spiritual diet and so does the church.<sup>5</sup>

Peter quotes from Isaiah: **“Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”** (Isaiah 28:16, King James Version).

## **Background:**

Please ask for and read the information contained in the **“Introduction”** article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

## **Focusing on the Meaning:**

### **I. Live Up to Whom You Are, Living Stones (vs. 4-8).**

Verses 4 and 5 connect with the preceding verses. Once you lay aside sin and get into the word you move toward maturity. You are born again and alive in Christ.

**“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing”** (John 15:5, King James Version).

V. 4. Jesus is the living Stone. He is the one to whom a believer comes. He was rejected by Israel and continues to be rejected by unbelievers. But, He is chosen by God, His Father and is precious to Him. He was rejected by men but note that he was “precious” in the sight of God. “Precious” means costly, highly prized, and rare. God measured His Son by His own divine standard.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> William Barclay, “The Letters of James and Peter”, The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1960, pg. 229.

<sup>4</sup> William Barclay, “The Letters of James and Peter”, The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, PA, 1960, pg. 229.

<sup>5</sup> John Phillips, “Exploring the Epistles of Peter”, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI, 205, pg. 107.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, pg. 105.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, pg. 105.

The living Stone is the foundation of all spiritual life. He is the foundation of the church . ***For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*** (Romans 3:11, King James Version).

V. 5. ***“And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.”*** (New Living Translation, Second Edition). ***“As you come to him...you also”***. Jesus is the living Stone. You are living stones. In the process of coming you change and take on the nature of Christ. He is the eternal example for every believer. ***“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren”*** (Romans 8:29, King James Version).

Living stones come together in unity to make a spiritual edifice called the church. Believers are to be ***“a holy priesthood”*** whose responsibility and task is to offer spiritual sacrifices. Those spiritual sacrifices are made to the Father through the mediation of the Son.

***“...rejected by humans but chosen by God”***. The sovereign power of God outweighs the will of man. Man’s rejection does not thwart the plan of God.

Consider the implications of this. Israel rejected Christ who came originally to them. Pentecost ushers in a new day with the beginning of the church. That new church is described by Peter as “living stones” and by Paul’s analogy of the human body. There is a glaring contrast between the Israel and the church. He is rejected by Israel and non-believers and He is precious to the church. Unbelievers will stumble over Him.

V. 6. Peter uses Isaiah 28:16. The passage is a prophecy of Christ and those who will believe in Him. In Isaiah it reads. ***“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.”*** Note the difference in wording. Christ has tested the stone and found it to be perfect.

V. 7. Jesus is precious to believers. But, to those who reject Him He becomes a stumbling block. The word translated “has been rejected” means rejected after He was examined and tested.<sup>7</sup> The builders who rejected Jesus were the Israelites. ***The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner”*** (Psalm 118:22).

V. 8. This verse comes from Isaiah 8:14. ***“He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.”*** The nation of Israel has, for the most part, be disobedient to the will of God. For one who is disobedient to Christ the road will be difficult. God knows those who are going to disobey. He has known for all time.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid. pg. 107.

## II. Living up to Who You Are, A Chosen People, A Royal Priesthood, A Holy Nation, A Special Possession (vs. 9-10).

***“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. 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.”***

***“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy”*** (New Living Translation, Second Edition).

“But” is a conjunction that is significant and denotes there is a contrast. There is a contrast between Israel and the church. The privileges and purposes Israel had are now passed on to the church.

One writer says that the word “but” is like a great swinging door. Peter begins here to contemplate the behavior of those who reject Christ contrasted with those who follow him and have joys, privileges, and responsibilities of having done so.

First he says they are a chosen people. By the sovereign determinate will of God they belong to Him. Whatever else one might say, the church belongs to Him. (Note 1:2). To be chosen by God to be a priest was a privilege.

All believers have been chosen by God: a "chosen generation—His own special people". As chosen ones the church enjoys all the blessings of faithful followers.

Second, the church is made up of royal priests. Royal priests are those whose life contains a royal King Jesus. Each believer is a priest who will offer spiritual praises to God. No longer will a person have to go to an earthly priest chosen by men. Men will have direct access to the throne of God through Jesus Christ.

***“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another---and all the more as you see the Day approaching”*** (Hebrews 10:19-25).

Not only are believers privileged, they also serve a purpose (see Hebrews 13:15-16 for an example), and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Each believer's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Believers are to serve God (Romans 12:1-2).<sup>8</sup>

Third, believers who make up a holy edifice also become a "holy nation". Remember one can define holiness by the fact that unholy characteristics are not present. A holy nation casts aside those sins that would destroy its witness. God intended for Israel to be a witness to the Gentiles, instead they became selfish with the great intent of God.

The calling of a holy nation in Israel began with God calling Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldeans and move south into what would become the holy land.

God commanded Israel to put a "difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean" (Leviticus 10:10), but they ignored and disobeyed Him.

Fourth, believers are God's special possession with a special and specific purpose. They are totally His. Believers are to declare His praises to a dark world. They had come out of that world into the light and are to carry that light back into the darkness.

***“. . . let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”*** (Matthew 5:16).

This is a response on the part of believers to the mercy received from God.

In conclusion read what Robert Hamblin says about this section of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter.

“We cannot get along in life as Christians without counting the spiritual calories. The child of God cannot do just anything and continue to grow in the Lord. God has a diet for us. God wants you to put aside the food that will deter your spiritual growth, and he wants you to feast upon the good food of his Word, making this your steady diet. God wants all of us to grow up in fellowship with him and in fellowship with one another by constantly reading his Word, believing his Word, acting upon His Word, and worshiping in fellowship with one another and with him. Then God will give us spiritual maturity.”<sup>9</sup>Cross references:

## **Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:**

To lead the church to explain the meaning of the priesthood of believers and describe implications for their lives.

Understanding that all believers are priests is extremely important. It is especially important in home churches where leadership responsibilities are shared. We are

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<sup>8</sup> “Got Questions.org.”

<sup>9</sup> Hamblin, pg. 57.

responsible for one another and to God. Anyone who truly understands this doctrine can never treat the church as something to meet his/her personal desires and needs. Each one will understand that he or she is, in fact, the church.

### **For Personal Reflection:**

**What have I learned from this study?**

**What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

**What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

## **Bible Study Plan** (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

### ***Live Up to Who You Are***

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

**Begin by helping the group locate the *Focal Text* in their Bibles. Also, share with them the *Main Idea* to be learned from the Scriptures, and the *Questions to be Explored* by the group.**

#### **Focal Text**

1 Peter 2:4-10

#### **Background**

1 Peter 2:4-10

#### **Main Idea**

As people who have responded in faith to God's gracious call, Christians are to live up to their identity as God's priesthood by serving God and proclaiming God's greatness.

#### **Question to Explore**

What does the priesthood of believers mean to you?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to explain the meaning of the priesthood of believers and describe implications for their lives.

#### **Connect with Life:**

As the group gathers hand each one a stone. After all have gathered ask them to describe the stone in their hand.

Say: Each one is unique. Each one by itself would be nearly worthless. Put them all together with other unique stones and you could build a wall or a building.

Take them to the lesson: We will be discussing a Living stone and living stones. Living stones have privileges and responsibilities. Can you name some?

Tell the class: As you look at the nature and function of the church you will be challenged to examine yourselves in light of what you learn.

## **Guide the Study:**

Give the class time to read the focal passage.

### **I. Live up to Who You Are (vs.4-8).**

Have someone read aloud verses 4-8.

Say: In order to better understand this section of scripture you need to go back and read the first three verses of chapter two.

Tell the class that the word to remember in this lesson is MATURITY.

Ask: Have you checked your spiritual maturity meter lately?

Then ask: What did Peter say in vs. 1-3 that a believer must do to grow?

Convey this basic truth: God wants spiritually mature believers to carry out His purpose. We will look at His purposes later in the lesson.

Now ask: How does Peter describe living stones? (Guide the discussion in such a way that the class will understand that church is more than a building. It is people. It is an organism that grows as each individual grows.)

Seek an answer: What words are used to describe what living stones are? (spiritual house and holy priesthood.)

Consider: What size is your spiritual house?

Ask: Is every believer a spiritual priest? (Yes.)

Next: For whom do believers act as a priest? (Self, no man has to go through another to get to God.)

Now ask: To whom does the priest offer spiritual sacrifices? (To God.)

Next: What are spiritual sacrifices? (Give time for thought and discussion.)

Read Exodus 19:5-6. **“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”**

Have someone look up and read Deuteronomy 7:6. **“But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”**

Say: As you can see there were priests in the Old Testament. They ministered in the Tabernacle to bring offerings and sacrifices to God.

Call for a class member to tell who is the living Stone? How is the living Stone described in verse 4?

Ask if anyone knows anything about a cornerstone or a key stone? (The **cornerstone** (or **foundation stone**) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry [foundation](#), important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire [structure](#). [Keystone \(architecture\)](#), a central stone or other piece at the apex of an arch or vault. (Wikipedia)

Ask: How important is a foundation?

Read: The living Stone is the foundation of all spiritual life. He is the foundation of the church. **For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ** (Romans 3:11, King James Version).

Ask the class to describe how Jesus was treated. (He was precious to God and those who love Him and to those who hated Him he became a stumbling block.)

Pick the strongest student and ask: What does Peter mean by **“which is also what they were destined for.”**

At this point lead the class to discuss the sovereignty of God and His right to choose who will respond. If sovereignty is a word some do not understand look it up in a dictionary. (sovereignty: *noun* supreme power, [domination](#), [supremacy](#), [primacy](#), [sway](#), [ascendancy](#), [kingship](#))

## **II. Living up to Who You Are, A Chosen People, A Royal Priesthood, A Holy Nation, A Special Possession (vs. 9-10).**

Inform the class. “But” is a conjunction that is significant and denotes there is a contrast. There is a contrast between Israel and the church. The privileges and purposes Israel had are now passed on to the church. We will study those contrasts.

**Note to the Leader:** Write chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, and special possession on either a board or large sheet of paper. If you do not have a large sheet of paper then write them on four smaller sheets.

Tell the class: These four characteristics are what Peter says believers are. Note that each believer is chosen for each role before the beginning of time.

Ask: Who were the first people to have these roles? (The Jewish people.)

Tell the group: Each of the terms will be taken in turn beginning with “chosen people”.

Explain: By the sovereign determinate will of God they belong to Him. Whatever else one might say, the church belongs to Him. (Note 1:2). This should give each and every believer assurance of salvation. God is stronger than anything or anyone.

Go on to say: Second, the church is made up of royal priests. Each believer is a priest who will offer spiritual praises to God. No longer will a person have to go to an earthly priest chosen by men. Men will have direct access to the throne of God through Jesus Christ.

Ask someone to read Hebrews 10:19-25 **“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another---and all the more as you see the Day approaching”** (Hebrews 10:19-25).

Continue: Not only are believers privileged, they also serve a purpose (see Hebrews 13:15-16 for an example), and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Each believer’s body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Believers are to serve God (Romans 12:1-2).<sup>10</sup>

Say: Third, believers comprise a “holy nation”. Remember one can define holiness by the fact that unholy characteristics are not present. As a holy nation believers are to cast aside those sins that would destroy their witness. God intended for Israel to be a witness to the Gentiles, instead they became selfish with the great intent of God.

The calling of a holy nation in Israel began with God calling Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldeans and move south into what would become the holy land. The church is called as each believer is brought to Christ.

God commanded Israel to put a “difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean” (Leviticus 10:10), but they ignored and disobeyed Him.

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<sup>10</sup> “Got Questions.org.”

Now share: Fourth, believers are God's special possession with a special and specific purpose.

Ask: What do you think that purpose is? (Believers are to declare His praises to a dark world. They had come out of that world into the light and are not to carry that light back into the darkness.)

A last thought for the class: “. . . let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

### **Encourage Application:**

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Conclude with this: The church is made up of individual living stones. Therefore, the church is more than a lone person, a lone stone. It is a corporate entity, many stones, the church, that serve the purposes of God. As a royal priesthood sacrifices are made to God. As a holy people witnessing is done for Christ and praise is offered to the Lord. As chosen people the church is responsible to God for all its actions.

Peter is giving information to the church to strengthen its backbone. Yes, times are going to be hard, but all the resources the church will ever need will be supplied by God. Never back down. He let them know that they were not alone. He lets us know we are not alone.

If there is time sing **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**, *The Worship Hymnal* #154; CCLI #27714 Public Domain.

Pray: Lord, I am your chosen child. I pray that this week you will bring into my path someone I can witness to that they might know You as I do.

**Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time.** Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

# Youth!!! Take Ten

## Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

### *Live Up to Who You Are* 1 Peter 2:4-10

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

#### YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

(One Minute Witness!)

One of you begin by reading Paul's testimony (Acts 22:1-21)

Then tell the group: There are two important questions for consideration: "Who are you?" and "What do you want me to do?" (Acts 22:8; 10) The answers to these two questions were the basis of all that Paul did.

Hand each one in the group a piece of paper and a pencil. Write the four items below on a large piece of paper or on a board or, have the copies you need made from the list at the end of this session. Each of you take time to write a brief answer to each statement.

1. WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE CHRIST.
2. HOW I RECOGNIZED MY NEED FOR CHRIST.
3. HOW I GAVE MY LIFE TO CHRIST.
4. WHAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN LIKE SINCE CHRIST.<sup>1</sup>

Ask: Is there anyone who would like to share what you have written?

Leader: If no one answers simply conclude with the following statement:

This is a privilege and responsibility of each believer. Let's take time this week to consider what we have written.

**Worship Time** (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Live Up to Who You Are***  
**1 Peter 2:4-10****Beginning the Service:**

Choose two or more from the following to sing:

**Faith is the Victory**, *The Worship Hymnal* #541; CCLI #98688 Public Domain  
**He is So Precious to Me**, *The Worship Hymnal* #565; CCLI #31724 Public Domain  
**Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**, *The Worship Hymnal* #423; CCLI #15960 Public Domain  
**I Could Sing of Your Love Forever**, *The Worship Hymnal* #116; CCLI #1043199  
**How Deep the Father's Love for Us**, *The Worship Hymnal* #101; CCLI #1558110

**Offering:****Praying for the World:**

Their kerosene lamp went out. Their hut fell into pitch blackness. The men complained, "now, without any light, we'll be harassed by spirits." Many live in fear of these spirits, often seeking protection by the use of magic spells. While the majority of people living in the urban area of Malang, East Java, are known for being devout Muslims, there are small minorities of Catholics, Hindus and Buddhists. In addition to their religions, however, animism is embraced. The message of the "Light of the World," Jesus Christ, and His power and authority over the spirits of this age is being boldly proclaimed among the peoples of Malang. Pray for those who are being faithful to witness about Jesus.

**Sharing Guide:**

**This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.**

# **Live Up to Who You Are**

Romans 12:1-2

## **Introduction:**

Our witness in this community is for his glory and should not be tainted in any way by our actions or attitudes. Our job is to present ourselves willingly as a sacrifice for His glory. Listen to the words of Paul.

***“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is---his good, pleasing and perfect will.”***

## **I. Living Up to Who You Are Begins with Commitment.**

Notice Paul’s admonition to ***“present your bodies a living sacrifice”***. Most sacrifices that were made were made with dead animals. Animals that were offered to God were first slain upon the altar of God. This is a contrast. God desires a “living” sacrifice now. That sacrifice of self involves the leaving of self and going to God. Leaving one’s “self” means to put personal desires aside. This involves an initial commitment and a continuous, daily commitment.

That sacrifice and consecration to God is what makes you “holy”. You will no longer be like you were. You will be “different”, i.e. “holy”. Coming to God in this way ***“...is your true and proper worship.”*** The NAS translates this ***“...which is your spiritual service of worship”***. Your entire life is to be worship unto the Lord. That is different from our usual concept of worship as a meeting together of believers involving song and preaching and fellowship. Those are times of worship which enable us to live out our lives in worship unto the Lord.

## **II. Living Up to Who You Are Continues with a Challenge.**

***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world.”*** Do not fit into the world’s mould. The King James Version reads this way, ***“Be not be conformed to this world.”*** A believer is not to look like anything in this world. He/she is to conform to the image of God’s Son. ***“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”*** Believers look like their brother. There is a family resemblance.

Magnets have properties of polarity that relate to the church today. When you try to put the same poles of a magnet against each other they repulse or push away. When you put different poles together they attract. All too often the church has tried to be like the world and has repulsed it instead. People do not flock to the church that is “conformed to this world”. Perhaps it is time to try it God’s way and be different, “holy” and

“transformed.”

### **III. Living Up to Who You Are Will Require a Change.**

If a person wants to live with and like Jesus then there must be a change of mind. There must be a redirection of thinking. Repentance means to change one’s direction of life.

Paul describes change like this: “...**but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**” Think this through. Your thoughts which generate actions must be changed or as he says “renewed”. How you look, your character, and personality will change.

The word for “transformed” is the word that gives us metamorphosis. The change that comes when a butterfly goes through its life cycle is metamorphosis. In the life cycle it goes from an earthbound caterpillar to a beautiful winged creature capable of flight. By the same kind of process a lost and ugly sinner goes through metamorphosis and changes into a beautiful Godly person.

#### **Conclusion:**

All Paul writes is so you might be able to be proof of what is the “**acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**” Your difference is what is acceptable. Your sacrifice that is so unlike what the world does is what is acceptable. This is the way that the prayer for the will of God to be done on earth as in heaven becomes a reality in your life. Hope becomes truth and reality.

This will not only affect your relationship with each other it will affect your relationship with the Lord. That is how it always works. One is intertwined with the other.

In this chapter Paul says some interesting things to the church. These are words for the citizens of the Kingdom of God to do as they live their lives among the people of this world. It is to be done for God’s glory.

If you want to make a difference in this world then you must be different from this world. Christ set a higher standard for His followers. Do not look back. Only look to the future with Him.

#### **Call to Commitment:**

Are you ready to let God raise the spiritual bar in your life? Perhaps you have never thought of yourself as chosen, special to God, or as a priest. There is much for a mature Christian to do. There is more to the Christian life than occupying a chair. Commit yourself today to a spiritual course that will bring you to maturity that you may fulfill the purpose God has for you.

#### **Concluding the Service:**

Perhaps you have been sitting here today and for the first time you heard the call to follow Jesus. It is not an easy decision to make, but it is the most critical choice you will ever make. Make Christ your Saviour and join in with other “living stones”. Become a part of His church in this place, making a difference for Him.

Copy and cut apart for each teen. (Use in "Take Ten" Bible Study application).

**1. WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE CHRIST.**

**2. HOW I RECOGNIZED MY NEED FOR CHRIST.**

**3. HOW I GAVE MY LIFE TO CHRIST.**

**4. WHAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN LIKE SINCE CHRIST.<sup>1</sup>**

+++++(Cut here)+++++

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