

There's a place for you

1 Peter 2:2-10

Peter encourages Christian communities facing persecution that they are specially called by God and given a new identity as 'living stones', built together like a new temple, supported by Jesus the cornerstone. The believers should keep on trusting and praising God who has shown them light and mercy.

Read this week's passage:



HUNT

See if you can spot a cornerstone in your community this week. Look for older buildings and for bricks with decorations or words written on them! When you spot a cornerstone, take a moment to pray and ask Jesus to be the cornerstone of your life.

Pray



Pause and write down the names of people who have welcomed, supported or encouraged you – thank God for each person and pray for God's blessings to be upon them.

ACT

Think about ways you can show people in your home, school and church that they are precious. How can you support people who are experiencing challenges in their lives?

Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals, yet chosen and precious in God's sight.' 1 Peter 2:4

Many great ideas and inventions were rejected initially because people could not understand how they would transform society.

- 'The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?' David Sarnoff's Associates rejected the proposal for investment in radio in the 1920s.
- 'There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.' Ken Olsen, President and Founder of Digital Equipment Corp, 1977.

Peter explains that Jesus was rejected by the religious leaders, the Romans and his own people, but God saw him as precious and powerful. Over time, the disciples and people around the world have understood who Jesus is and what Jesus taught and did. Now those people are joined together, like stones being built into a structure, a movement of people living the Jesus Way.

Have you ever thought an idea or person was untenable and then realised later they were right? What helped to change your mind? Is it hard to be a pioneer when other people don't understand? Do you ever feel rejected for your faith? You're in good company with Jesus. What helps you keep strong?

First impressions

- What happens when a team works together and supports one another?
- How can we ensure that church is a place where everyone feels they belong?
- What will you do this week with the support of Jesus the cornerstone and the 'precious stones' in your church community?



Pray

Thank you, precious Lord,
that we are called to be living stones.
Confident knowing our place,
and generous enough
to go out and live our lives serving others,
helping them to find their place in you.
Amen.



Decorate a stone using craft materials and write a Bible verse on it using permanent marker, e.g. 'you are chosen and precious in God's sight' (1 Peter 2:4). Keep it somewhere special or give it to someone who needs to hear this verse.