

5 | GROUP PRAYER

Rather than going around the group and sharing prayer requests, you might consider simply bowing your heads and taking turns praying for the things on your heart or that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

NEXT STEPS AFTER GROUP

1 | SCRIPTURE FOCUSED

- Verse to Memorize: _____
 - Other Passages to Read: _____
- _____

2 | PRAYER FOCUSED

- How can you pray for people in your group this week?
- Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about something you need to repent of and turn over to Jesus?
- How are you going to respond to this truth and put it into action?

3 | OTHERS FOCUSED

- Did anyone in your group share a need that you might be gifted to help with?
- Consider inviting a friend from group to meet up for a meal or a hang out time.
- Is the Holy Spirit bringing someone to mind with whom you can share the things you've learned today?

GROUPS

STUDY GUIDE

Why Would I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

Reading, thinking, and praying about the primary passage your Lighthouse Group is studying ahead of time may be one of the most pivotal ways to make your Lighthouse Group discussions powerful and meaningful. When you do prepare beforehand, you're coming with thoughtful insights and ideas you've been wrestling through. That's different from grabbing at the most accessible thoughts in real time.

How Do I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

1 | PRAY

Ask God to open your eyes, mind, and spirit to His truth. Your desire is not to "get the right answer," but rather to know Him as He has revealed Himself so that you can trust and rely on Him more fully.

2 | READ

Read the main passage. Consider reading the same passage in multiple versions, like ESV, NIV, AMP, and NLT. All of these can be found at BibleGateway.com. For better context, read the paragraphs before and after the study passage as well.

3 | REFLECT

What does this passage teach you about God? Maybe something to praise Him for? Does this passage reveal an area of your life you should confess as sin to God? What does this passage lead you to ask God for? How does this passage point to Jesus work on the cross and out of the grave?

Think through some of the questions you'll be discussing during your Lighthouse Group time.

4 | WRITE

This is when you cross over from reading into study - writing down truth that you are discovering. Write down questions that come to mind as you are reading.

We've included space on the next page of this guide for you to write down insights, questions, and more that you can bring up in your Lighthouse Group discussion time.

PREP BEFORE GROUP

PRIMARY PASSAGE: 1 Peter 2:4-10

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14; 28:16; Matthew 7:24-27; 16:13-20; Romans 9:30-33; 10:11-12; Ephesians 2:19-22.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: January 13-19, 2025

1 | **PRAY:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your group in truth and spiritual growth.

2 | **READ** 1 Peter 2:4-10

One volunteer reads the passage in the ESV or NIV. Another volunteer reads the passage in AMP or NLT.

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Peter wrote this letter to Christians living in the ethnically diverse region of Asia Minor (now known as Turkey). His audience would have been made up mostly of Gentile, rather than Jewish, believers (see 1:14, 18), for the gospel of redemption through Christ is for *all* people, whatever their background.

He introduces the letter to the “elect exiles.” Though God has chosen us to be citizens of His eternal kingdom, at the present time we still live as outsiders in an unredeemed world. We become citizens of His kingdom when we respond in faith to Jesus’ gracious call to turn away from our sin and enter into His righteousness. This makes us exiles on earth for the time being, but now and forever, we are part of Christ’s eternal kingdom, members of his family.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. What “house” does Peter say God is building, with people as the “living stones” that make up the structure?
2. What is the identity of the stone in vv. 6 (quoting from Isaiah 28:16) and v. 7 (quoting Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14)?
3. How does Peter describe the people who are chosen to be these building stones, and for what purpose are they called out of the darkness?

TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. In what ways are the “living stones” like the “cornerstone”?
2. Some people are chosen to be part of this building, but others will stumble over the cornerstone. What determines each person’s destiny?
3. On what basis do we receive mercy?

APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Do I fear rejection by others if I put my faith in Jesus?
2. Am I one of these “living stones”? If so, how can I know that? If not, do I want to become one?
3. If I am one of God’s chosen people, am I aware of the purpose for which He chose me? Do I make this purpose my own as well?