STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Teaching: *The Purpose of Identity*
Key Scripture: 1 Peter 2:4–12

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:
Monday: 1 Peter 2:4-12
Tuesday: Psalm 118
Wednesday: Matthew 21:33-46
Thursday: Exodus 19
Friday: Romans 12

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

CEDARVALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:
Jesus is the cornerstone on which we build our lives, and when we choose to follow Him, He gives us a new identity as God's people. Peter describes believers as living stones being built together into God's spiritual temple and as a royal priesthood called to represent God wherever they go. But our identity comes with a purpose: God has called us out of darkness into His wonderful light so that we can show others His goodness. Living as followers of Jesus in a world that doesn't always share our values can be challenging, but we aren't called to withdraw from the world. Instead, we're called to live honorably among those who don't know Him, demonstrating His grace, integrity, forgiveness, compassion, and love through our everyday choices. People aren't just listening to what we say about Jesus; they're watching how we live. Our lives can either make Jesus harder to see or help others recognize His goodness. The best argument for Jesus is a life that looks like Jesus.

Questions:

Ice Breaker: What would your dream house be like?

1. Read 1 Peter 2:4-12 as a group. How does the audiences experience compare to the experience of Jesus in verse 4? (See 1 Peter 1:6-7)
2. What are all the identity statements about who we are in verse 5 and 9? How could this identity shape your daily life? (See Digging Deeper)
3. Read Exodus 19:5–6 and compare it with 1 Peter 2:9. God called Israel His treasured possession and a kingdom of priests. Peter applies this language to followers of Jesus. What do you think it means for us to belong to God and represent Him to others?

4. According to 1 Peter 2:9-10, what is the purpose behind our identity as God's people? Why is it important to understand not only who we are in Christ but also why God has given us this identity?
5. In 1 Peter 2:11-12, Peter talks about abstaining from fleshly or worldly desires because they "temporary residents and foreigners". Read Galatians 5:19-21 to read a fuller list of what these fleshly desires might be. Why do you think he emphasizes both resisting sinful desires and living well among our unbelieving neighbors? (See Digging Deeper)
6. In what ways is God challenging you to live properly among unbelieving neighbors? Think about your everyday interactions at home, work, school, or in your neighborhood. What is one specific way you could demonstrate God's goodness this week through grace, integrity, forgiveness, generosity, compassion, or humility?

DIGGING DEEPER

Question 2—

The Greek word *οἰκοδομέω* (*oikodomeō*) translated as "is building" in the NLT, is a timeless verb. The idea is that when someone comes to Christ, a new stone is then added to the "spiritual" house God is continuing to build. "Spiritual" does not mean that it is "less" than real. It demonstrates that the temple and the stones and the material sacrifices in the Old Testament were shadows of the reality to come in Christ. Through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and the resurrection, there is a new priestly order where all believers have immediate access to God.

—ideas from *The Expositor's Bible Commentary on 1 Peter* byEdw3in A Blum and edited by E Gaelelein

Question 5—

In 1 Peter 2:11–12, Peter takes what he has just taught about Christians being God's chosen people and explains how that should affect the way they live. God has given Christians a special place in His family and shown them His grace and love. But this privileged position isn't meant to make them feel important or expect others to serve them. Instead, it prepares them to serve others humbly. Jesus is the perfect example of this. Even though He was the Son of God, He came not to be served, but to serve others and give His life for them (Mark 10:45). In the same way, Christians are set free by God not to live only for themselves, but to love and serve others. Because we belong to God, we are free to put others before ourselves and show His love through the way we live.

—paraphrased from *The Message of 1 Peter* from *The Bible Speaks Today* series by Edmund Clownery, Edited by John R.W. Stott