

## Bible Study Meetup



*Seeking a fuller experience of life through faith and love with Jesus at the center. Come to City Grace to be a part of God's renewal of you and your city.*

219 Sullivan St. New York, NY 10012  
Sunday Worship 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

- Children's Worship (pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Free Coffee and Refreshments
- ALPHA at 1:00 pm (free lunch)
- Casual Dress
- Vibrant Worship

## Meetup Bible Study

I Peter 2:4-10 The Royal Priesthood

### Introduction

- Why is identity such an important issue for people?
- What happens when we lose our sense of identity?
- What kind of an identity would God want us to have?

### Introduction of the Metaphor (Vs. 4-5)

- What does the present ongoing tense of “as you come to him” assume?
- Jesus is called a “living stone.” Why? What metaphor is being introduced here?
- How is this stone regarded by men vs. by God? What implications does this have for people who are trying to put Jesus at the center of their lives?
- What does vs. 5 teach us about the relationship between the church and Jesus?
- Christians are called two things: a “spiritual house” and a “holy priesthood.” Explore these images together.
- What are the “spiritual sacrifices” that Christians offer?
  - Sacrificing animals?
  - Communion? (i.e. sacrificing Jesus' body?)
  - Telling people about God's mighty works?
  - Making sacrifices in our lives that point people towards God?
- Discussion: think of examples of people putting this priestly identity into practice for you.

### Different reactions to Jesus (vs. 6-8)

- For people who are putting Jesus at the center of their lives, what is the guarantee in vs. 6? Do you find this promise comforting?
- How do other people respond to Jesus? Why?
- How do people “stumble” on Jesus? What about Jesus trips them up?

### The specific calling of the Priesthood (vs. 9-10)

- Peter piles up descriptive phrases in vs. 9 that emphasize what?
- Vs. 9b helps clarify the purpose of the Royal Priesthood and the nature of the “spiritual sacrifices.” What is the purpose of the Royal Priesthood?
- According to Vs. 10, Peter emphasizes a change that has taken place. What is the change? What does this mean about how Christians should treat other Christians?
- What is the mercy that the people have received?

### What it looks like to live out of the new “priesthood identity” (vs. 11-12)

- Why might Peter introduce this next line with “Dear friends?”
- In vs. 11, Peter is pleading with his audience to live according to the new identity and not the old one. For Discussion: in your own life, what would it mean to live as a “priest” and not as a “sensualist” or “hedonist” who indulges the sinful nature?
- Discussion: Peter urges his audience to live such good lives that even “pagans” can't help but glorify God. Is your life one that points people towards God? If so, how? If not, what must change for it to become so?