

Intergenerational Bible Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-10 & Luke 24, Year A - Easter 5



What this is: Intergenerational Bible Reading



Where it's used: Any intergenerational gathering



Time: 10 minutes +



Bible focus/theme: 1 Peter 2:4-10



What's needed: Print outs and/or screen copies of the text marked with 'House' emblems – see template below

If you have a gathering that enjoys some spontaneous costuming – a collection of hard hats and hi-vis vests and orange cones may add some colour and catalyse a spirit of creativity, courage and fun.

Large screen or hard copy poster version of Christ Booth art for 1 Peter 2: 4-10

Optional - Postcards with questions for households to take home

Summary

This segment explores the experiences of being in 'Houses' (teams) as a way of understanding the kind of 'house' First Peter refers to in the metaphor of Living Stones.

Participants share their stories of 'House' identity.

It then uses the allocation into 'houses' as a means to present the text collaboratively.



1 Peter 2:4-10

Introduction

I am wondering if you've ever been in a house?

Not the kind of house you live in, the sleep and eat and play and tidy up and rest kind of house.
But the kind of house you are in at school for sport or athletics.
The kind of House that the Sorting Hat puts Harry Potter in at Hogwarts.

When I was at primary school, growing up, there were four houses – each with a different colour and emblem and named after an Australian flower.
[substitute in your own experience]

Some houses are named after people – like the Hogwarts houses – and those who belong to the house might try to imitate the character of those who the house is named after.
These kinds of houses often have an emblem, a symbol to represent them. Or a particular colour.

Who knows what I am talking about?
Who is or at one time was in a House at school?
Who has read Harry Potter and wishes that they were in Gryffindor?

Take a few minutes to tell the person next to you about a house that you are in or have been in.
What was it? What was it like? What did you do? Did you have a symbol or an emblem for your house?

Give time for these conversations – you may want to move about the gathering and coach any conversations that are slow starting.

So we know about belonging to a house that is not where we live with other people, but a group we belong to with others.

So I'm going to put you into houses! And each house is going to have a name, and a colour and an emblem.

Allocate a section of your gathering to each of the 'Houses'



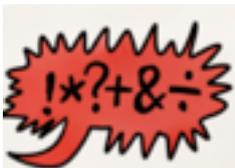
The House of Builders

The house of builders has a worker's hard hat



The House of Stumblers

The house of stumblers has a very sore toe



The House of Rejecters

The House of rejecters has a loud nasty shout

1 Peter 2:4-10

Each of our houses takes their emblem from the art that Chris Booth has created for this passage.

Display entire image

Each of these 'houses' is found in the reading – they represent the ways people responded to God's Spirit and message in the history of God's people. We can see their stories in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) – but perhaps their stories aren't too different to stories we know of how different people, maybe even ourselves respond to Jesus today.

The **house of builders** were busy building their own thing, not looking out for God's ways of doing things.

The **house of stumblers** found God's ways got in the way of their ways and kept crashing up against God's ways

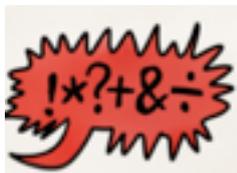
The **house of rejecters** just flat out didn't want God's ways. They objected to God's ways and tossed them aside.

This is the kind of house that you belong to for a purpose, to work together for a common goal, like winning the athletics carnival or having the most points for tidying.

It's the kind of house that you get chosen for and put into. Like the sorting hat chooses Harry Potter to be in Gryffindor.

In our reading from the Bible in the book called First Peter (written like a letter from a follower of Jesus to other followers of Jesus who live far away and a long time after Jesus) the writer uses this idea of 'being in a house' – the kind of house we've just been talking about – to describe what its like to be followers of Jesus.

So we are going to read this part of the Bible together – and each of our 'houses' is going to help in a different way. Our text is marked with the 'house' symbols. And I'm inviting you in your house to check out the bit that your house has been tagged to read for us. In your house, practice how you are going to bring your part of the text to us. This might be by chanting it in unison, or a dramatic reenactment, or in song – or by dividing it up and sharing it among the voices in your house. It's up to you! Doesn't need to be elaborate – you've just got a couple of minutes to pull this together as a house. Go!



House of Rejecters

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight,



House of Builders

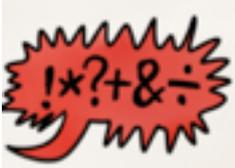
and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-10



House of Builders

For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”



House of Rejecters

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”



House of Stumblers

and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Stop here...

Good Job House of Builders!
Good Job House of Stumblers!
Good Job House of Rejecters!

You’ve read well...You’ve shared the words of the bible wonderfully with us.

But the text is about to shift gears.

This next bit moves past the House of Builders, the House of Stumblers and the House of Rejecters.

This is the way the people of God have missed God’s ways - but the story’s not over! First Peter goes on to tell how God replaces the old houses of Builders and Stumblers and Rejecters and makes a new House.

A House of being all God’s people and instead of being divided in to different houses – there is now one House for everyone. For the people addressed in First Peter in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia – some of whom were Jewish, and other of whom were from many other nations – this is the good news, that everyone is gathered and built into one house.

So we are going to read this together. This is about how God rebuilds us all, into one house – the ‘House of Jesus’ – living with his character in his ways. First Peter calls it the ‘House of Living Stones’ – and Jesus is the number one foundation stone.

1 Peter 2:4-10

There's some bits marked for you to join in...like this:



But you are a



chosen race,



a royal priesthood,



a holy nation,



God's own people,

in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you

1 Peter 2:4-10



out of darkness into his marvelous light.

2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are



God's people;

once you had not received mercy, but now you have



received mercy.

Great!

Well done House of Living Stones. Let's put all of that together and hear the whole passage as one. Let's listen out for the important things – who Jesus is and who God calls us to be.

Repeat reading in 'Houses' and 'house of living stones'.

Conclusion

Looking again at the complete image for 1 Peter 2:4-10, which parts of the text can you see? Let's remind each other of the whole story.

Give some time for people to point out parts of the picture, reconstructing the narrative of the text.

A reading like this gives us wonderful questions. I wonder if you have some questions?

If there is time, take some suggestions.

Here are some things I am going to ponder – some of us were in the house of builders – I wonder who the builders are that First Peter mentions? And if Jesus is named as the cornerstone that is a stumbling block – how could Jesus make someone stumble?

Extension – Offer Postcards for households to take home and continue with questions and prayers from the passage and the image.

1 Peter 2:4-10



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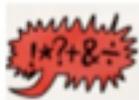
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Join the Dots...

1 Peter 2:4-10

Take home postcard for households.



Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

What kind of 'House' is your household?

Why would some people reject Jesus?

How might Jesus be a stumbling block to some people?

If we are called 'living stones' what kinds of things might we be meant to spend our time building?

How can we turn these ideas into a prayer



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