

Living Water Fellowship

4th Sunday in Easter – 30th April 2023

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION GREAT ARE YOU LORD (ALL SONS & DAUGHTERS) CCLI 384660

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: *Only a Holy God*

BIBLE READING: 1 Peter 2:1-10

¹ So get rid of all evil behaviour. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, & all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. ⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honour.

⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶ As the Scriptures say,

“I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honour,
and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”

⁷ Yes, you who trust him recognize the honour God has given him.
But for those who reject him,

“The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.”

⁸ And,

“He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they do not obey God's word, & so they meet the fate that was planned for them. ⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ “Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people.

Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy.”

CHILDREN'S TIME:

OFFERING SONG: *Hosanna*

FAITH CHAT:

1. When you think about the church at large, (not just Living Water or the one you frequent)...What do you think is the church's greatest struggle, hurdle, obstacle...?
2. How does the church best demonstrate its oneness, even though we worship & live our common faith in Jesus differently from one another?

THE MESSAGE: *THE NEW NORMAL: LIVING IN UNITY*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: ROCK OF AGES (CITYLIGHT/EQUIP)-CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
In Christ, you are a priest of the Living God!
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: 10,000 Reasons

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 1 Peter 2:1-10. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. What two commands does Peter give to his readers in this passage? How do these commands relate to the preceding verses? (See 1 Pet. 1:22-25)
3. What are some ways you have seen the negative characteristics Peter lists stunt the spiritual growth of believers or of the church? How do these sins show up in your circles or in your own life?
4. In 1 Peter 1:13-25 & here Peter cautions against conforming too closely to the world. What do you do to intentionally avoid being moulded into the world's beliefs, attitudes, assumptions & habits?
5. What's Peter getting at in vss 2-3? Think through the implications of being like a breastfeeding infant in your relationship with Jesus...discuss.
6. Peter describes Jesus as the cornerstone. What is the cornerstone of a building & why is it important (2:6-7)? What does it mean for someone to "stumble" over Jesus (2:7-8)?
7. What do you think of when you think of a Priest? How would you explain the descriptions of God's people in 2:9 to someone who was not yet a Christian? What purpose does the royal priesthood serve & what implications does that have for us as God's people today?
8. Peter uses priestly imagery to describe the ministry of the church. What does it mean to offer "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God"? Where do you do that besides Sunday worship?
9. Peter's images are collective: we are not just individuals, we are living stones, priests, chosen people. How does Living Water reflect this fact? What does it suggest for those who regularly do not participate in community worship among fellow followers of Jesus?
10. How might the Church better declare the praises of God in the community in which he has placed us?
11. This section emphasizes that God doesn't just save us out of sin but that He saves us to Himself as a people. What are ways Living Water can better live together in biblical community? How can we help people belong, grow as disciples, & live out Christ's mission together?
12. What does this text call you to do?