

THE COMMONS LEADER GUIDE

September 16th
Week 2 - Living Servants

MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 2-3

MAIN POINTS

- Our primary purpose as Christians is to bring glory to God (2:5, 9, 12).
- We have been set free to live as servants to God (v. 16). This means modeling Jesus' submission and loving our enemies.
- We are to represent Christ by having a good conscience and being prepared to defend our faith (v. 15-16).

BACKGROUND

Peter introduced his letter in Chapter 1 by reminding his readers of their identity as chosen children of God—set apart, yet living as exiles in this world. Their identity is rooted in Christ's death and resurrection, which gives them hope and joy that cannot be taken from them, even in the midst of suffering. Because of this, they are called to live different—as obedient children.

In Chapters 2 and 3, Peter continues this line of thought and gives specific ways this obedience plays out in their relationships with each other, authorities, and spouses. These Gentile believers belong to a spiritual family with a special identity and calling—they are living stones, a royal priesthood, and living servants of God. As living stones, they are continually being built up into the house of God where God dwells (i.e. in his people!). As a royal priesthood, they are set apart to make "sacrifices" to God in the form of obedience. And as living servants to God, they are set free from sin to obey God, which is true freedom.

RESOURCES

Enduring Word Commentary - 1 Peter 2
Does the Bible Condone Slavery?

UPCOMING COMMONS EVENTS

Commons Late Night - **Sept 25**
COMMONS GATHERING - Sept 30

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 1 Peter 2:1-12

1. What do you think Peter is getting at in v. 2-3? How are we like "newborn infants," and what is "pure spiritual milk"?
2. In 2:6-8, Peter quotes Old Testament passages that talk about Jesus as the "cornerstone." A cornerstone is the first and most important stone laid in the foundation of a building. How is Jesus a cornerstone? (see *Eph. 2:20, Acts 4:11*)
3. Why do you think Peter calls believers "living stones"?
4. Read verse 11 again and camp on it for a minute. This is a central command in the whole letter. What do Peter's words tell us about how we are to live as Christians?
5. What are purposes of obeying God? (v. 9, 12)

READ 1 Peter 2:13-3:7

1. Why do you think Peter talk about these things here? (look at v. 11-12)
2. How is it possible to be free and also slaves of God? (v. 16)
3. How did Jesus endure/respond to persecution? (v. 21-23)
4. In Chapter 3, Peter shifts to talking about marriage. How does a wife's submission to her husband reflect Christ?

READ 1 Peter 3:8-22

1. What does God promise will happen if we are faithful in suffering for what is right? (v. 9, 14)
2. If the opportunity came now, do you feel confident and prepared to defend your faith?
3. What does baptism represent? (3:21-22)

APPLICATION

1. Peter calls believers to have a "good conscience" so no one can use our behavior as a reason to harm us or reject Jesus. Do you have a good conscience before the Lord and others? Do you have a secret you need to confess?
2. Have you been baptized? Do you need to take this next step in obedience to God? What questions do you need answered about baptism to take this step?

