

**Sunday 25 October
2020**

Today's Reading 1 Peter 2:1-10 page 2

Prayer:

God our creator
you made each of us different,
yet we fit together.
Help us to build together,
knowing that we are building on
you and with you.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
our cornerstone. **Amen.**

What is a corner stone?

It is the rock upon which the weight of the entire structure rests. It is usually the first rock that is laid and all other rocks are laid in relation to this stone.

The church is made up of living stones - us!

There are lots of different types of walls - brick and mortar, dry stone walls. Some building styles need uniform bricks, but drystone wall builders use just what they can find. The stones can be varying shapes and sizes. The stones fit together to build a stable structure without slipping and without any mortar. Skill is required in selecting the stones and in fitting them together.



Some walls have been there for thousands of years - Great Wall of China, Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Romans were such good builders that they built things without mortar. The Roman aqueduct at Segovia in Spain is a good example of this (left).

This is a good image for building a church: we don't get to pick and choose what living stones we have to build our 'spiritual house' - we have to use what is there! The letter we are studying has the name of the disciple Peter on it - his name means rock - which reminds us of what he founded. But we also need to remember that he was 'rocky' - not always very reliable. Nevertheless, Jesus called him and God used him for great things.



1 Peter 2:1-10

Jesus Is the Living Stone

2 So then, get rid of all evil and all lying. Do not be a hypocrite. Do not be jealous or speak evil of others. Put all these things out of your life. ² As newborn babies want milk, you should want the pure and simple teaching. By it you can mature in your salvation. ³ For you have already examined and seen how good the Lord is.

⁴ The Lord Jesus is the "stone" that lives. The people of the world did not want this stone. But he was the stone God chose. To God he was worth much. So come to him. ⁵ You also are like living stones. Let yourselves be used to build a spiritual temple—to be holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. He will accept those sacrifices through Jesus Christ. ⁶ The Scripture says:

"I will put a stone in the ground in Jerusalem.
Everything will be built on this important and precious rock.
Anyone who trusts in him
will never be disappointed." [*Isaiah 28:16*](#)

⁷ This stone is worth much to you who believe. But to the people who do not believe, he is

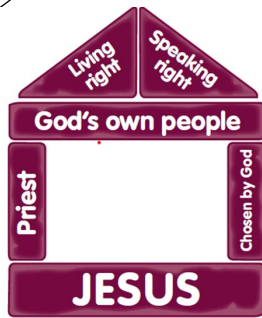
"the stone that the builders did not want.
It has become the cornerstone." [*Psalms 118:22*](#)

⁸ To people who do not believe, he is

"a stone that causes people to stumble.
It is a rock that makes them fall." [*Isaiah 8:14*](#)

They stumble because they do not obey what God says. This is what God planned to happen to them.

⁹ But you are chosen people. You are the King's priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone. God chose you to tell about the wonderful things he has done. He called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ At one time you were not God's people. But now you are his people. In the past you had never received mercy. But now you have received God's mercy.



Living Stones

Colour in the "stones" page 4, cut out and build the house using the instructions below.

We are built on the firm foundation of Jesus, we are priests who serve, chosen people who are loved by God.

We are God's own people to show how great he is.

Our lives are based on Jesus, who is bigger and stronger than anything else. He chooses us to show how good and how great he is. God says we are like living stones, we are a holy place, we are priests and we are even tools in God's toolbox. All these things show us how God thinks of us.

Welcome to Jesus.

(lay down the first stone)

Some people think Jesus is worth nothing, God thinks he's worth everything.

We are built on Jesus, a solid, a strong and a firm foundation.

We are chosen by God.

(lay second stone on top of first)

We are like priests.

(lay third stone on the base)

We are God's own people.

(lay next stone down)

We are the way God shows his goodness.

We do his work

(lay second last stone in place)

and we speak out for him.

(lay last stone in place, completing the building)

We are his own people. We serve him.

Prayer:

Loving God who sees our potential,

Use our hands to do your work

so that we can help build a world

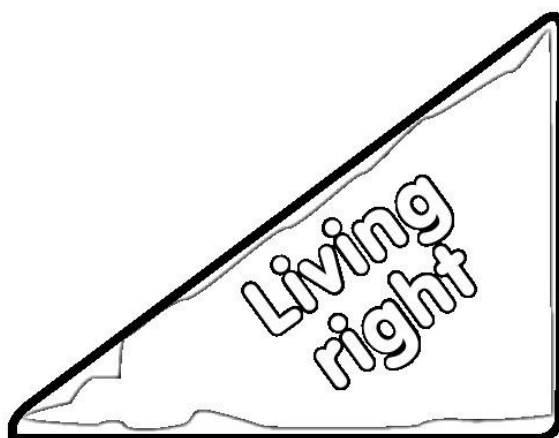
where all are welcome,

all are important and

all are cherished.

Amen.

JESUS



Priest

Chosen by God



God's own people