

Resilient Faith: A Study of 1 Peter

Group Guide | February 1

Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Begin your time together as a group with a word of prayer. Thank God for this community of believers around you.

READ 1 Peter 2:4-10 and then discuss the sermon (30 minutes).

- What resonated with you or challenged you from Emerson's sermon on the Church?
- Do you see faith as a more individual, private thing or more a communal thing? Explain. How does this passage challenge the way you view it?
- Do you ever feel the temptation that the Church is not needed? What do you think contributes to that sentiment?
- How do you think the culture views the local church? Explain.
- Why *is* a local church important?
- Re-look at 1 Peter 2:9. Which of Peter's identity statements (chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's possession) do you struggle most to believe personally, and why?
- In what ways have you been the beneficiary of the "spiritual sacrifices" of people in a church? Are there any ways in which God is calling you to offer a "spiritual sacrifice?" Explain.
- At the end of his sermon, Emerson asked everyone to consider three questions:
 - "What kind of stone am I? A living stone or a solo stone?" Explain.
 - "What is my life built on? Is it built on Christ, the Living Stone?" Explain.
 - "When it comes to Church, am I allowing God to build me as a living stone with other living stones on the Living Stone or am I just attending?"

One at a time, have each person respond to each of these and discuss responses.

If applicable, reflect on the 90-Day Bible Reading Plan (20 minutes)

- What was your time reading the New Testament and Psalms like for you this week?
- What is something you learned?
- What stood out or challenged you from God's Word?

Finish with prayer (5 minutes)

Close your group time by sharing prayer requests and interceding for one another.