**1. Motivate**

What is a recipe you hate for people to mess with the ingredients and prevent it from tasting authentic?

* chocolate cake
* brownies
* chocolate chip cookies
* pancakes/waffles
* barbeque sauce
* canning bread and butter pickles
* angel food cake

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. View at <https://tinyurl.com/55yxkzbs> If you do not have wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/3shcfey9>

* soufflé

**2. Transition**

Consider the single element of our faith that makes it authentic.

* The person of Jesus Christ makes our faith true and authentic in all aspects.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Trust and Obey Christ

Listen for a rejection.

1 Peter 2:1-5 (NIV) Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Note the practices persons born into Christ are to lay aside?

* Malice – wickedness, depravity
* Guile – deceit, trickery against others
* Envies – desire for what belongs to another
* Evil speaking – slander, defamation

Peter contrasts these to receiving pure spiritual milk for spiritual growth and maturity. What would be the source of this “pure spiritual milk”?

* God’s Word
* God’s Truth
* take it in daily, hunger for it … like you hunger for your physical meals

Why is Jesus referred to as a living stone?

* it is a metaphor (a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.)
* Jesus lives, He lived a real physical life … died … rose from the dead and lives right now
* a “stone” in the sense of being the *cornerstone* of our faith
* everything we believe is based on who Jesus is, what He accomplished

Note the roles in which believers function for God.

* Living stones
* Built into a spiritual house
* For a holy priesthood
* Offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus

What are different kinds or shapes of stones used in constructing a beautiful building, a cathedral, for instance? (if possible show a picture of a cathedral or your own church building)

* foundation stones
* special shapes of stones around a window or door
* sculptures which decorate certain parts of the edge of the roof
* large flat pieces of polished granite on walls or floors
* large rectangular stones which make the steps

If we are “stones” which form the “building” of the church, what are different kinds of “stones” needed for God’s church – both the local congregation and the church universal?

* pastors, teachers, missionaries
* prayer support people
* people who lead in worship
* people who join together in singing
* people who are witnesses to unbelievers, evangelists
* encouragers
* financial supporters
* work with children, youth, nursery workers
* secretaries, administrators, maintenance workers

3.2 Foundation of the Church

Listen for who is the “stone”.

1 Peter 2:6-8 (NIV) For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

What will happen to those who trust in the "Cornerstone", those who build their lives on Him?

* never put to shame
* eternal life, eternal union with God
* peace with God
* forgiveness of sins
* set free from the penalty, the power, and eventually the presence of sin

How did Isaiah 28:16 (quoted by Jesus) describe the “stone”?

* laid in Zion (Jerusalem)
* chosen
* precious cornerstone

How was Christ treated differently by believers and unbelievers?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Believers | Unbelievers |
| * the “stone” is precious * stone becomes the capstone, the corner stone, * the most basic part of the foundation * who Jesus is and what He accomplished are the basis for all our faith * trust in Jesus, never put to shame | * rejected * causes men to stumble * causes them to fall * fall because of unbelief of the message * disobey the message * do not accept Jesus as Savior and Lord |

In what ways do people stumble over Jesus and His message today?

* consider the Bible a bunch of myths
* don’t want to change their lives and give up sinful actions and attitudes
* blinded by Satan
* reject the idea that Jesus rose from the dead
* think Jesus was merely a good man, a teacher, a martyr

In verse 6 Jesus quoted Isaiah 28:16. Consider these facts about what Isaiah said.

* Zion was a name for the city of Jerusalem.
* In the ancient world, the greatest care was taken in
  + Selecting, preparing, and
  + Setting in perfect position, the primary foundation stone of a temple building.
* The stones in a temple structure “depend” on the cornerstone for direction and support.

So, for what things do we depend on Jesus ?

* our eternal salvation, mercy, grace
* both positional righteousness and a practical or experiential righteousness
* daily guidance, wisdom
* power to live a holy life, distinct from the world
* peace, joy, love … the Fruit of the Spirit

3.3 Proclaim Christ, Glorify the Lord

Listen for Jesus as the center.

1 Peter 2:9-12 (NIV) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Note the four images Peter used to describe what those who believe in Christ have become.

* A chosen race
* A royal priesthood
* A holy nation
* A people for His possession

Contrast the past and present condition of believers.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Past condition | Present condition |
| * not a people * had not received mercy | * God’s people * received mercy |

For what purpose were they called?

* proclaim God’s praises
* share how God changed your life

What changed about their lives?

* God’s rescue from the darkness of sin
* rescued from the rule of sin in their lives
* brought to the Light of the Gospel
* now God rules their lives – free from sin

How has God changed your life?

* no longer too often angry
* joy, peace replace fear
* took away bad habits
* produce fruits of righteousness in our lives
* took away substance abuse dependency

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

* gave up foul language
* gave a purpose for living
* empowered for service, for ministry
* changed my choice of music
* changed how I used my time … no longer wasted on trivial activities
* helped me through hard times that would have

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Pray.

* Once a week, pray for your church leaders’ wisdom to guide the church to center on Jesus.

Eliminate.

* Identify one action or attitude you will eliminate from your life to move toward holiness.

Participate.

* Volunteer to serve in a ministry role where you can influence your church to make Jesus the main thing in its mission

Crossword Puzzle

A list of questions

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Description automatically generatedA screenshot of a crossword

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While you solve the puzzle, I’ll finish laying this cornerstone. Remember words and clues come from 1 Peter 2:1 – 12 (NIV) Find help at <https://tinyurl.com/3shcfey9>