



2,000 years ago, out of fire and blood, arose the most diverse and dynamic family that the world has ever seen. Originally known as "The Way", this band of brothers and sisters discovered their true identity in their leader, Jesus of Nazareth. After his death and resurrection, their movement multiplied as they welcomed people of every nation and race. Amidst this explosion, men like Peter wrote letters to encourage other believers who faced hostility from all sides. Two millennia later, these letters continue to inspire Christians in every corner of the world. For 10 weeks (Aug 18-Oct 20) at The Story we'll explore the letter known as *1 Peter* to discover our true identity and purpose together.

September 8, 2024 - Priesthood

Reflection Question: Whenever someone asks, "What do you do?" how do you usually respond, and why?

1 Peter 2:4-10 - As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—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. 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."

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,
"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone," and,
"A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 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.

What was Peter saying about Jesus?

What is significant about Jesus being our Cornerstone?

What was Peter saying about Christians?

Why was it so remarkable for Peter, a 1st Century Jew, to make the claim that all Christians are *priests*?

In the Old Testament, who were the priests of Israel, and what were some of their duties?

Peter wrote that our task as priests under Christ is to offer up “spiritual sacrifices.” Let’s explore a few examples:

- 1. The Sacrifice of _____ (See Romans 12:1)
What does it look like to offer this kind of sacrifice?**
- 2. The Sacrifice of _____ (See 1 Timothy 2:1)
What does it look like to offer this kind of sacrifice?**
- 3. The Sacrifice of _____ (See Hebrews 13:15)
What does it look like to offer this kind of sacrifice?**

Your Notes:



Groups & Classes Start THIS WEEK!

This is your last chance to sign up for one of our discipleship groups or classes for this fall season. Learn more and register on our website: [**thestory.church/groups**](http://thestory.church/groups)



ReEngage Marriage Class

If you’re engaged to be married or have been married for any length of time, ReEngage is the class for you! The course, used all around the country for many years, ministers to couples of all ages and also serves as the Story's premarital class. Register here: [**thestory.church/marriage**](http://thestory.church/marriage)