

**Living in a New Kingdom**  
Next Steps  
1 Peter 2:9-12; Philippians 3:20-21

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Loving God, we come to you in praise, in humility and in hope. You alone are our promised land, our house with many rooms, our refuge and strength. Be with us today. Pour out your grace, which sustains us beyond measure. Speak a word that we may hear. Amen.

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

- What did you agree/disagree with the sermon this week?
- How would you describe the Kingdom of God? (if you struggle with this question, there are many sites available: Christianity.com, ibelieve.com, etc.)

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

Read 1 Peter 2:4-12

- What strikes you most about this passage?
- What does it mean for you to be 'a living stone'? As you return to your job or a world that is returning to 'green' what would being a living stone look like for you?
- What does Peter mean in v. 8 that Jesus causes people to stumble? How does that apply to your life?
- V. 11 calls Christians "aliens and strangers" or "temporary residents and foreigners", depending on your translation. What do you think this means? What would it look like for you to live as a stranger in your local community?
- If we are described as a spiritual house, what part of your 'spiritual house' and life do you need to improve? What steps will you take to build a strong house with God?

Read Philippians 3:20-21.

- What does it mean to you to be a citizen of heaven? Does this change your way of life? How could it?
- Are you more likely to strive for excellence in your secular life or your spiritual life?

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Add one spiritual discipline to your life. (start reading or add more scripture, add 5 minutes to your prayer time, start fasting, join a small group, etc.)
- Pray every day for the people with whom you work.
- Identify one person to pray with at work.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

You are cause for rejoicing, O God, and the source of our gladness. You know what afflicts us; you can sense our distress. You remove whatever net will ensnare us; you give our feet firm places to stand. In Christ you have brought us deliverance. For all your mercies we praise your name and worship you now as our refuge and strength.

-James G. Kirk