



Family Worship Guide – 1st Peter 2:4-8

MEMORIZE

1st Peter 2:5 – 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.

READ

Read 1st Peter 2:1-10

Jesus is shaping us into living stones because He is building us into a spiritual house. We are not intended to be isolated; we are to enjoy God in communion with each other. As a new people in God, we are to declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness and into the light. Not only are we living stones being built into a spiritual house for God’s habitation. We are also called a “holy priesthood.” In other words, we are not merely the passive building where God dwells; we are also the active participants in worship.

And not just any participants, the priests! We all are the priests of this new spiritual house, and it is our privilege now as priests to draw near to God with spiritual sacrifices. The priests brought the sacrifices into the tabernacle in the Old Testament. But now the tabernacle is replaced by the Christian body. The atoning altar is replaced by Jesus Christ and his shed blood. And the priests are replaced by you, those who believe in Christ.

Discussion: (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. Give examples of how Jesus is precious to you. Share specific times/situations and explain why/how He was precious at that time. Ask your family to share examples of how Jesus is precious to them.
2. If we are a holy priesthood, this should govern how we interact with each other. How should we treat our families in light of being a holy priesthood?
3. Discuss with your family how you can surrender more to Jesus and live completely for his purposes? Write down action statements.
4. Explain to your family what a spiritual sacrifice is and how you offer these to God. Ask them to share how they offer them and how your family can offer more.

Bottom Line: We are called to be spiritual sacrifices; offering Jesus our lives by His spirit, by His leading and for His glory.

SING

“Building up the Temple” – (for families with children under 5)

“From the Inside Out” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZ-fghqc8Oo&feature=related>)

As a holy priesthood we are told to offer spiritual sacrifices to our God. That is only possible when we completely surrender ourselves to Jesus and His purpose becomes our purpose. We need to be changed from the inside and then our lives shine His light, by His spirit and for His glory.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool (up to 5)

- Get out blocks or legos and invite your children to build a house with you. As you build your house, talk to your children about the message. Jesus says we are living stones, each of us is a piece of the body of Christ's church. We are held together by Christ.
- Choose different shapes to begin your building with. How many blocks can you stack on top of a circle? Jesus is our precious cornerstone. A strong foundation!

Children (K-5th)

- Gather blocks and see how many blocks you can stack. Experiment in your building the importance of laying each block exactly on top of the foundational block. How is the strength of the tower impacted if the blocks on top are not placed exactly on top of each other?
- Re-read 1Peter 2:4-8 Verse 6 says that Jesus is "a chosen and precious cornerstone." Explain that a cornerstone in a building is the first stone, the foundational stone that the rest of the building is built on. Talk about your towers and the importance of that first block to the building. What kind of stone is Jesus? Where are we in the building? Talk about how we are stones built on the foundation of Christ, in relation to Him. Thank God with your children for this truth. Our spiritual house, Christ's church is built solidly as each stone lays in relation to Christ, the cornerstone.
- Talk about ways that followers of the world differ from followers of Christ. Give examples of how we can live in relation to Christ, our cornerstone.

Students (6th-12th)

- Re-read 1 Peter 2: 9-10
- We are a "royal priesthood." Ask your children what the role of the priest was in the Old Testament. Turn back to Leviticus, specifically Leviticus 9 and note the repetition of "for yourself and the people." Could the Israelites go to God directly in the Old Testament? The priest was the mediator between God and the people.
- How did Jesus change that? Read Hebrews 13:11-16 and ask, How are we able to approach God directly? What are we to do now? Discuss what it means to offer spiritual sacrifices. For some examples, read through the following verses. Mark 12: 28-33 Romans 12:1-2 Challenge your kids to think about the ways we are conformed to the pattern of the world. How can we be conformed more into the image of Christ?

PRAY

- Take an opportunity for each family member to share prayer needs. Pray for each one of these requests specifically.