

**Sunday May 10, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**  
**Bible Study – 1 Peter 2:2-10**  
**Living Stones**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes). In pairs, tell a story of when you were “chosen” or selected that made you feel appreciated or important.

**Group Dialogue** (Approximately 30 minutes)

**1 Peter 2:2-10 Context.** This week’s reading from 1 Peter has an almost poetic relationship to the reading from Acts: there, Stephen sees the object of his devotion, Jesus, the one who has fed his soul, in glory; here the author encourages his hearers to yearn for spiritual nourishment as a baby yearns for its mother’s milk. There, Stephen is stoned to death; here, Christ is a living, life-giving stone, a cornerstone, and all who come to him become living stones, built up into a house/priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices to God. The author here cites explicitly only three verses from Scripture, but every one of his sentences is an echo of either the Psalms or the prophets. The last sentence takes the story of the prophet Hosea’s children – named “No People” and “Not to be Pitied” as prophetic signs of the Lord’s rejection of Israel – and turns it, as does Hosea, into an affirmation of God’s mercy, in the present case towards those who had never been a part of God’s covenant community.

**Read 1 Peter 2:2-10**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read 1 Peter 2:2-10 again**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- Name those who have been spiritual mothers to you. Who helped feed you “spiritual milk”?
- Look at all the uses of the word “stone” in this passage. [Jesus is a living *stone*, v. 4; we are like living *stones*, v. 5; Jesus as the *cornerstone*, vv. 6-8]. What might it mean to be like living stones (v. 5)? What is Peter trying to express using this imagery?
- Read verses 9 and 10. Name the labels or identity markers Peter gives to the readers of this letter. (There are about 5) What Old Testament images does Peter draw on? [Chosen Race – Isaiah 43:20; Royal Priesthood, Holy Nation, God’s own people – Exodus 19:5-6.] What does each mean? Which are most meaningful to you? Which are most daunting or surprising?
- What’s the intended purpose of our chosen status as priests? (pay attention to verse 5 and verse 9) What might that look like in your life?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:  
I ask God for....  
I thank God for.....

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:  
God of new life, you have chosen us and have instructed us to be priests who glorify you in all that we do and say. May our lives radiate your glory and be pleasing in your sight. **Amen.**