

In Christ: **PRIESTLY**

1 Peter 2:4-10

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Week Beginning 23 February 2009

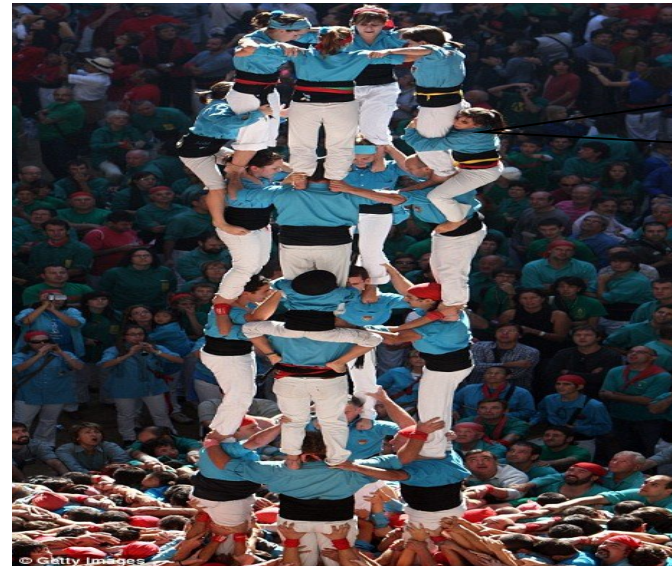
DISCUSS (5 minutes as a group)

Lincoln Hall survived a night on top of Everest when by all accounts he should have died. He didn't attribute or acknowledge that any particular God saved him. If your life got handed back to you like that, how would it prompt you to re-examine your life's priorities?

Read, Reflect and Apply

Read v4-5

1. What is the purpose of describing Jesus as a 'living stone'?
2. How does the situation of Jesus in v4 reflect the situation of those to whom Peter is writing to?
3. What does it mean for us to be living stones in a spiritual house?
4. In the Old Testament Aaron and his family were set aside to be a priest. Read Lev 16: 9, 11, 15, 24, 34 to see what a priest does. What is the function of the priesthood? How are you a priest?



Nice house you got here!!

5. What sort of building will the finished project be?

6. Why is Jesus so vital in offering up 'acceptable sacrifices'?

Read Isaiah 27:12-28:19 (see also Lk 20:17-19)

Isaiah gives us a helpful background to understanding the image of the cornerstone.

6. Who are the people being spoken against? What have they done? What sort of stone is God laying? What will God do in the future?

Read v6-8

7. What does it mean that Jesus would be a stumbling block?

8. Does it bother you that Jesus would be a stumbling block for people? Explain.

Read v9-10

9. What is the significance of each of the titles used in v9?

Chosen people

Royal priesthood

A holy nation

A people belonging to God

10. In groups of 2-3 share with each what darkness Christ called you out of? What does the light look like in your life? (think back to the intro question—we have been born again and as a result our whole life has been reorientated)

12. How do you in your life declare all the wonderful things God has done for you?

Pray

(Try to stay focussed on the issues the passage raises)

- Give thanks to God for his work in us through Christ
- Praise God that he is transforming us into spiritual house
- That we would offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus
- Pray for our friends and family who continually stumble over Jesus
- Thank God for who we are in Christ—chosen, holy, priests, people who belong to him
- Give thanks for God's mercy and the way he has shown it to us
- That we would stand strong when the world tries to defile and malign the gospel
- Many connections with and beyond our community that we might speak of God's wonderful salvation in Christ.



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