

Camp Copass Boys Camp 2006

Cornerstone – Building for God’s Kingdom

Bible Study #3

The Living Stone and Living Stones

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 2:5

Bible Study Text: Matthew 16:13-18; 1 Peter 2:4-8

Object: To help boys understand that each person is, like a living stone, a very important part of the building of God’s Kingdom.

Has anyone ever called you a name that hurt? Like “Blockhead.” To be called a “Blockhead” means you are so dumb your head must be a block of wood or a rock. Sometimes being given a name can be a very complimentary thing. Peter would never forget that he got his name from Jesus. His real name was “Simon,” but one very special day Jesus gave Simon the name “Peter.” The name “Peter” means “a stone” or “rock.” From that day on Simon was called “Peter.” Why was that so special?

It all started on the day when Jesus took His disciples apart on a retreat to a place called Caesarea Philippi. There He asked them a very important question, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus told Simon that he was very blessed to know this because it had not been shown to him by anyone but the Father in heaven.

And then Jesus told Simon, “You are Peter (a smaller stone), and on this rock (a larger, foundation stone) I will build my church.”

Most people believe that Jesus was referring to Himself as the Rock which His church would be built, but that Peter and all believers would become the stones with which Jesus would build His church and His kingdom.

Years later Peter still remembered that day and he wrote in his letter called First Peter these words, **“As you come to him, the Living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house”**

Let's imagine that the church you belong to is made of bricks and you are standing outside the church looking at all the bricks. Which brick is the most important one in the building? You might say, "They are all important." And that is very true. If even one brick were taken out, you would notice the hole left immediately.

And so it is true of the church which is made up of people. Every person is important. And every person is like a "living stone" or "living brick" which Jesus is using to build His church. Of course, Jesus is the most important "stone" because He is the foundation and cornerstone, but all persons who believe in Him are important. He is the Living Stone; we are living stones.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some names that people sometimes use to hurt each other? Why do you think it hurts us so much when people call us names?
2. Can you think of some names that would be kind and helpful for others to call us?
3. Why was Peter's new name so special?
4. Jesus asked Peter a very important question: "Who do you say I am?" Suppose Jesus asked you the same question. What would your answer be?
5. How does God use each of us to build His church?
6. Are you a "living stone"? How do you know?

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