

## Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for May 7, 2023:

*An Ancient Letter to a Modern Church: Houses & Homes*

For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS  
Community or family



- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

- What is a favorite childhood memory of the church? What about as an adult? How has your experience of the church changed over time?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

*Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

*4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 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. 6 For in Scripture it says:*

*“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”*

*7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,*

*“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”*

*8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”*

*They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.*

*9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

**1 Peter 2:16-25**

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- How much should we desire the word? Why do you think Peter uses the comparison of a baby desiring milk? What can God’s Word do for us?
- Read Ephesians 4:31-32. How do these verses relate to vv. 2-3?
- Why is Jesus referred to as a living stone?
- And how are we living stones? In what way are we priests? What sacrifices can we offer that are pleasing to God?

- o What is a cornerstone? Is Christ the cornerstone/foundation of your life? If we want to examine to see what is the foundation of our life, what could we look at?
- o Why does verse 8 say that Jesus is a rock of offense and a stone of stumbling?
- o How are believers described in verse 9? How does that make you feel? How does this challenge you? How should we act based on this verse?
- o What does it mean you once were not a people?

- **SERVE** *others*

The second offering during the month of May is the Family Promise of Butler County has a mission to help address the needs of children and families who are homeless in Butler County by providing shelter, meals, and comprehensive support services. Royal Redeemer supports Family Promise by providing monetary assistance and donations. To donate to the Second Offering, visit [www.royalredeemer.org/worship](http://www.royalredeemer.org/worship)

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**