



STUDENT  
MINISTRIES  
FIRST PRES

# *Students' Worship Guide*

Belong series  
August 22 – October 31

**THIS WORSHIP GUIDE BELONGS TO:**

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# HEY LEADERS!

This worship guide is a tool to use as we go through our current sermon series, ***Belong***. In this series, we'll be taking a little walk through some of the New Testament, looking at stories of belonging, both with each other, and with God.

We've already filled this guide with annotations, quotes from pastors and activities, and we hope you'll encourage students to keep their weekly sheets to keep thinking about the passages and take-home activities throughout the week.

We hope this guide is a positive resource for you and your students as you think together about what it really means to ***Belong***.

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## JOHN 4:5-13

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,"

*What does this tell you about Jesus? What does this mean for us?*

*Jesus initiated this conversation, which is a big deal in this culture. Why? What does this say about Jesus?*

*This is an understatement! Think of groups of people who just can't seem to get along - who comes to mind? What is this gift that Jesus is talking about?*

*What is the answer to this question?*

*One of the big disagreements between Jews and Samaritans was about laws of cleanliness that were very important to Jews. Samaritans, and anything they touched, would be seen as "unclean." But Jesus asks for water from her. This forces us to think about why we do what we do. Are there any "rules" you follow that you need to check against Scripture?*

## MY NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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Sometimes we may find ourselves asking if Jesus is *really* better than... fill in the blank. You may hear the world tell you that having this “THING” will change your life! But we know that we will always be thirsty for more, and Jesus is the Living Water that will quench that material thirst! The woman at the well had asked, “Are you greater than our father Jacob?” because Jacob was the one who had built the well for the people, meeting their material need. The answer is a resounding “YES!” Jacob may have provided his children with physical water in a dry land, but Jesus provides His children with “living water” in a spiritual wasteland. The life Jesus gives satisfies all our needs and leads to eternal life!

– Heather Ainsworth

## TAKE HOME:

Have you ever felt like an outcast? The woman in this story certainly did! It says she goes out at noon, which is the hottest part of the day. She was likely out then because she didn’t want to come across anyone on her journey. Especially not a Jewish man! She was a woman with a scandalous marriage history. And a Samaritan, no less! In this day and age, all three of those things would have disqualified her from being able to talk to Jesus. But He talks to her anyway! Think of a time you felt like no one knew you or that you were too different, too young, too shy, or too something else for people to know and love you. In the notes section of this page, write down a prayer asking God to show you that He loves you, knows you, and wants to be in relationship with you no matter who you are! Then spend some time this week thinking about how you can love other people, no matter who they are, because Jesus loves us first!

## ICEBREAKER:

Think back to a time you felt really refreshed. Describe it!



## JOHN 4:13-19

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

<sup>17</sup> “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband.<sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

<sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

*See 7:37-39. Does this give you more of an idea of what Jesus means by “living water”?*

*Have you ever really thirsted for God? Why or why not, do you think?*

*Jesus is pointing out something that would have been shameful to this woman, and something looked down upon by all society, but He still treats her with compassion. What does that show you about how Jesus deals with our mistakes and failures? Is there anything you could bring to Him? Are you willing to own anything and trust Him to forgive and heal?*



## MY NOTES:

[illegible]

## TAKE HOME:

We all need things. We also want things! There is nothing wrong at all with needing and wanting things, but have you gotten something you wanted and realized it wasn't actually fulfilling? I know I have!

We all have deep needs within us that only God can fill. We all want things like love, connection, and belonging, because we find that in God! But sometimes we try to find that in other places. Spend some time this week noticing the things you want and need. See if those things can be fulfilled by God. Spend some time praying and asking God to fulfill those needs for you!

## ICEBREAKER:

Would you rather read people's  
minds or let them read  
your thoughts?



**Put yourself in this woman's sandals. Sit in this interaction with Jesus. What do you feel?**

– Pastor Linda Boyles

## JOHN 4:20–26

<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

<sup>21</sup> “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

What Jesus is saying here is totally different from beliefs of the time when you went to a specific place to worship. Why is this such a big deal? How does it change everything?

Sometimes we feel like we need the right setting to meet God. Maybe it's early in the morning, or while listening to specific music, or in a special place like church or youth group. What are the rhythms and habits that you see as necessary to meet with Jesus?

Notice that Jesus says FROM and not FOR. Again, He is describing a game-changing mindset—one where God is not just for one people group. Who is part of God's family, according to Jesus?

As Jesus tells us that the time has come for true worshipers to worship in SPIRIT and in TRUTH, He also tells us that God is Spirit and that God is actively seeking us out and inviting us into true worship of Him. What do you think Jesus means by worshipping in Spirit and in Truth?

Jesus doesn't always identify Himself this clearly, but He does here. Where have you seen God clearly, obviously working in your life? Have you seen Him in more subtle ways, too?



It's important for us to know the context of this story. Back in Jesus' day it was completely out of norm for a Jewish man to talk to a Samaritan, let alone a Samaritan woman. Multiple times in their interaction, Jesus tries to lead the woman at the well to understand who He truly is. After many of Jesus' hints, verse 20 tells us that she still only sees Him as a Jewish teacher, assuming that He is calling her to worship in the temples of Jerusalem.

This is where it gets saucy. Our cultures and traditions mold the places and structures that we feel worship belongs in. But Jesus invites us into deeper worship, of Spirit and of Truth.

Verse 21 says "the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father." Jesus is calling us to where we belong, in true Worship to God. Worship that is in truth and spirit, not wrapped up in times or places. Throughout this week, recognize moments of your day that you feel belong in true worship. Talk with your small group about what it means to worship in spirit and truth, and remember that God loves you and is seeking out your worship to Him!

– Ashley Beaty

## MY NOTES:

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## TAKE HOME:

In this passage, Jesus says we worship what we know and that we do that in the Spirit and in truth. What does worship mean to you?

Can you think of types of worship that aren't singing and going to church? Maybe you worship through being in nature. Maybe you worship through art. Maybe you worship through serving others. Think of a way you can worship God this week "in Spirit and truth."

## ICEBREAKER:

What is your favorite part of the day?



## JOHN 4:27-42

## The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

<sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

<sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

<sup>34</sup> “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. <sup>35</sup> Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

## Many Samaritans Believe

<sup>39</sup> Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. <sup>41</sup> And because of his words many more became believers.

<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

*Clearly, the disciples' hearts are starting to change by being near Jesus. Have you seen any way you have been changed by following Christ?*

*This woman is so excited that she goes and tells everyone she sees about Jesus. Do you have that same excitement? Why or why not?*

*Who are “they”? Is there anyone in your life who needs to hear about Jesus?*

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## TAKE HOME:

One of my favorite parts of the story of the Woman at the Well is that she is so changed by her interaction with Jesus that she goes and tells the people in her town about Him. And many of them believed her story and came to know Jesus themselves! Something cool about this is that it demonstrates that we can be catalysts in other people coming to know Jesus, but that He's already working in their lives and that they get to know Him themselves if they choose to! What is one way this week that you can share the work that God is doing in your life with those around you?

## ICEBREAKER:

Remember a time that you heard really exciting news. What did you do after you heard it?



**In this passage, the Samaritans are being lovingly welcomed into God's family. Just like He did with them, the Good Shepherd found you! And you were like a lost sheep! Hooray! But are there other sheep out there lost? What about them?**

– Pastor Tim McConnell

## LUKE 5:1-11

## Jesus Calls His First Disciples

<sup>5</sup> One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.<sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

*Have you ever been at a point when you feel too tired to do what God calls you to do? What happened?*

*Look at how the one choice of one person impacted the lives of so many.*

*What do you think Simon Peter realized here? Why would he tell Jesus to leave right after this amazing miracle?*

*"Fish for people"—we sometimes hear this language just thrown around in churches, but what does it really mean? How could you fish for people?*

*They left everything. What does this tell you about what they saw in Jesus? What does it have to do with belonging?*

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## TAKE HOME:

There's a lot happening in this passage, but one thing that jumps out to me is that Jesus tells Peter to do something different than what he was doing, and when he realizes that Jesus was right, he becomes seemingly embarrassed for doubting and tells Jesus to go away from him. Do you ever feel like you don't deserve the love and belonging we have in Jesus? I sure have! But here's the cool thing, Jesus doesn't say, "You're right. You should've believed me. You don't belong here anymore." Of course not! Instead, He disrupts Peter's fear of not being good enough by basically telling him, "You're still in. I still love you. You can still be my disciple and work for my Kingdom." In other words, "You can't mess up enough to not be mine." Is that comforting? Think this week about what things you're still holding onto and worried it's too messy for God, maybe that it means you're not enough for Him. What would it look like for you to bring that to God and let Him tell you the same thing He tells Peter? *You belong.*

## ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever had a parent or grandparent tell you to do something you did not think would work, but then it did?

**Jesus bursts into the lives of Simon-Peter, James and John in a big way, and we can watch Peter's attitude shift as he realizes who he is talking to. As Jesus invites Peter into belonging and calls him to fish for people, we catch a glimpse of His desire to see each of *us* join in this belonging.**

**Where is Jesus inviting you to belong?**

– Tim Wazny



## ACTS 1:1-8

### Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Most of Israel's leaders do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah—the one who came to save everyone. In light of that, why does Luke start his letter this way?

Luke spent a lot of time with Jesus. Why does he recall this specific comment? And what is the gift Jesus is talking about?

Jesus doesn't really answer their question, but points them to the Father. How does this affect how we should respond to times of uncertainty?

So who belongs in God's family? Do you always treat people like they are in your Kingdom family? What would that look like?



## MY NOTES:

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**Have you ever had the opportunity to be a brand ambassador? It is interesting that a brand ambassador is someone that promotes and tries to give people an idea of this product. In a way, you can think of it as if they're witnessing a specific product as good. In a very similar way, Jesus is calling all the disciples to be brand ambassadors of the Gospel, to go and tell everybody of this great news, witnessing about who He is to the ends of the earth.**

— Marcos Henry



## TAKE HOME [NEED HELP]:

Acts 1:8 is a HUGE verse that the rest of the book keeps returning to because it is pushing the disciples to see that the Kingdom of God moves beyond just THEIR people and THEIR hometown to the ends of the earth. The people of Jerusalem would have been their close, inner circle, community, and the people of Judea would have been local and known, but not necessarily family, and Samaria would've been "outer circle," the "different from me" type of people. So this verse is telling us that we are called to be lights both at home and beyond! Take a moment to write down the widening circles around you. Who is in your Jerusalem (your inner circle: family and friends)? Who is in your Judea (your local community)? Who is in your Samaria (the people who may be on the other side of issues from you, the outsiders)? And who is in your "ends of the earth" (the people beyond that) that you can serve?

## ICEBREAKER:

Do you know the movie Ratatouille? The rat, Remy, controls the boy's actions by tugging on his hair so that he can cook. Have you ever had an experience like that where you said or did something that felt beyond you?

## ROMANS 12:1-2

### A Living Sacrifice

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

What on earth does this mean? And what would it actually look like to do this?

In your group, make a list of things that fall into the "worldly pattern" category. Then talk about what it means to be renewed—to be transformed into someone who lives into Jesus' patterns.

Testing and approving basically mean we're able to tell right from wrong. What do we need to do in order to be able to really tell what is right—what is God's will?

## TAKE HOME:

The world is full of things like isolation, hurt and fear. If you ever see the news, look at social media, or leave your house, you know this to be true. What would happen to the world if we all lived differently than that? It's too big to ask us to never experience these things, but we can take baby steps toward being different. What is one aspect of your life you can ask Jesus to transform for the better?

## ICEBREAKER:

What's a talent you can do with your body? Maybe you can curl your tongue or wiggle your ears or are double jointed!



## MY NOTES:

[illegible]

## ROMANS 12:3-8

### Humble Service in the Body of Christ

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

*Like it or not—we are most often our own top priority. Why is that? What can we do to try to more consistently think of and care for others?*

*We are all part of a WHOLE, so no one is expected to be perfect at everything. In your group, go around and talk about your different gifts and talents. (Point out other people's talents and gifts, too!)*

*Then be willing to talk about your weaknesses, too (we know it's hard). How can the different members of your small group fit together to be even greater than if you were apart?*

## MY NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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## DIG IN: TAKE HOME:

Do you ever compare yourself to others and wonder why you're different? It's a pretty natural thing to do. But how do you usually feel afterward? I usually feel worse. This pastor reminds us that God makes us purposefully, for a reason. You are not a mistake; you are not wrong. And God has given *you* specific gifts you can use for the good of the Kingdom! Maybe you're good at art. Maybe you're an athlete. Maybe you care for people really well. Maybe you love gardening. Think this week about the things you are good at and practice doing those things for God, whatever it might be! You never know how God might use you!

## ICEBREAKER:

What is your favorite team/group (superheroes, lion pride, etc.)?

**A healthy self-worth isn't just thinking highly of yourself but seeing yourself through the eyes of Jesus—our identity in Christ. Without Him we aren't actually capable of very much, but through Him we are able to do mighty things in building His church! Don't hold back! Are you using your gifts to share God's great love to others?**

— Chris Cullins



## ROMANS 12:9-13

### Love in Action

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

The rest of Romans chapter 9 is a list of ways to live a life pleasing to God, and look at what's at the top of the list: LOVE. We throw the word "love" around a lot (I love tacos, I love football), but what does it actually mean to love each other like God calls us to?

Go through this list and circle the items that come more naturally to you. Underline the ones that are difficult. Talk with your group about these. What can you do to grow in all these things?



## MY NOTES:

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## TAKE HOME:

In the ESV version, verse 10 says, “*Outdo* one another in showing honor.” So ... challenge time! Try to spend today trying to outdo everyone around you in showing them honor, loving them, sacrificing for them. **THIS** is what God means when He calls us to love each other.

Follow-up questions to this experience: How did you feel? How did they feel? Did anything change? What did you notice?

## ICEBREAKER:

What does love mean to you? Get all the cheesy answers out and keep answering!

**Jesus gives over a dozen commands in this passage for how we should live. That’s ... a lot. But here’s the deal: we can’t do a single one of these without Christ. If any of these are harder for you, pray for God’s help. Pray He helps you to love sacrificially, to put others first, to give up your own desires, even if you don’t really want to. Let Jesus take care of the process of changing your heart to look more like His.**

– Heather Green



## ROMANS 12:14-21

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

These are some of the most difficult commandments to follow because they require us to think of ourselves less and step into others' lives. Talk about some of the commands in verses 14-17. How can you grow in doing these things?

When you are super mad or frustrated, what do you usually do? (Be honest!) How does God want you to react?

Paul acknowledges that you will not always be able to have peaceful relationships with all people. What should you do then? And how do you know when peace is not possible?

Have you ever seen good win out over evil just with its goodness? What happened?



**This passage reminds us of the character we are to have as followers of Christ. Verse 20 calls us to take care of those who are against us by showing kindness and meeting their needs. God's love shines through our kind actions and transforms hearts! Kindness wins—even though our world may say otherwise.**

**Take a minute to jot down a person or situation you can be on the lookout for this week to show unusual kindness to and put this passage to practice. Now that's radical living!**

— Quincy Winder

## MY NOTES:

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## TAKE HOME:

We're coming to the end of our series on belonging where we've talked about all kinds of belonging. This passage is specifically about how we can help other people experience belonging. And let's be honest, some of this passage is *pretty* countercultural. We are taught an eye for an eye, but Scripture says, "Overcome evil with good." What do you think of this? Have you ever tried it? Notice this week times that you find yourself wanting to repay hurt with hurt. Try to respond differently.

Then ask: How did the other person respond? Were they surprised? How do you think the situation would've gone if you'd chosen to meet the situation with revenge?

## ICEBREAKER:

What is the most radically kind thing you've ever seen someone do? Or that someone has done for you?

## 1 PETER 2:4-10

### The Living Stone and a Chosen People

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.”

<sup>7</sup> 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,”

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

*Peter is using a metaphor here. Why? What do we learn about Jesus by Him being described as a living stone?*

*Now Peter uses the same language he used to describe Jesus to describe us. What does that mean? What does it say about you?*

*Look up what a cornerstone is. How does this add to Peter’s description of who Jesus is?*

*These verses contain both an amazing promise and a calling. What is the promise? How should our lives change because of this promise?*









## REFLECTION: