

119

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Life in Exile: A Desire for God (1 Peter 2:1-10)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Peter connects the believer's new birth with a new way of life. Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander undermine the love that should characterize God's family. Believers must put these attitudes and actions away because they harm the community.

Like infants longing for milk, believers should constantly desire God's Word. The teaching explains that this milk nourishes all believers, not only beginners. God's Word gives new birth and sustains growth toward the salvation that will be fully experienced when Yeshua returns.

Yeshua is the living stone, rejected by people but chosen and precious to God. Believers joined to him become living stones in a spiritual house. The teaching explains that this temple imagery does not mean that Peter rejected or replaced the Jerusalem Temple and its priesthood.

As a holy priesthood, believers offer spiritual sacrifices through Yeshua. These include repentance, praise, kindness, and meeting others' needs. Those who trust the cornerstone will receive honor from God, even when their neighbors shame them for their faith.

The teaching understands the appointed outcome in verse 8 as punishment for unbelief, rather than God forcing people to disbelieve. Peter also applies Israel's titles and Hosea's restoration promises to Gentile believers. Their inclusion does not require claiming that every believing Gentile physically descends from ancient Israel.

A desire for God must be cultivated through a real relationship with him. The teaching encourages intentional time for prayer, Scripture, and worship, with reminders or accountability when needed. Drawing near to God and receiving his Word helps believers leave destructive habits behind and grow in godliness.

SUMMARY POINTS

- New birth calls believers to love others in God's family.
- Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander damage community.
- Pure spiritual milk refers to God's Word and nourishes every believer.
- Spiritual growth continues toward salvation's future completion.
- Yeshua is the living stone and precious cornerstone.
- Believers together form a spiritual house and holy priesthood.
- Spiritual sacrifices include repentance, praise, and care for neighbors.
- The teaching identifies the appointed doom as punishment for unbelief.
- Gentile believers share in God's people and Israel's restoration through Messiah.
- Prayer, Scripture, worship, and accountability help cultivate closeness to God.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Peter tells believers to put away malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and _____.
2. Believers should long for pure spiritual _____ like newborn infants.
3. Yeshua is described as a living _____.
4. Believers are being built into a spiritual _____.
5. Peter calls believers a royal _____.
6. Those who once had not received mercy have now received _____.

Challenging

1. The teaching explains that the pure spiritual milk is God's _____.
2. The teaching distinguishes predestined unbelief from the appointed _____ for unbelief.
3. Peter draws on the restoration prophecies of the prophet _____.
4. The northern kingdom became indistinguishable from the _____ among whom it was scattered.
5. Peter's temple imagery should not be read as teaching _____ theology.
6. To help follow through with time devoted to God, the teaching recommends an _____ plan.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do the five vices Peter names damage a community that is called to love?
2. Why does the teaching understand spiritual milk as nourishment for all believers?
3. How does being joined to the rejected yet precious living stone encourage believers facing rejection?
4. What spiritual sacrifices does the teaching describe, and how can a community offer them?
5. How does the teaching connect Gentile inclusion with Hosea's restoration promises?
6. Which suggestions for prayer, Scripture, worship, or accountability could help you cultivate a deeper relationship with God?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. slander
2. milk
3. stone
4. house
5. priesthood
6. mercy

Challenging

1. Word
2. punishment
3. Hosea
4. Gentiles
5. replacement
6. accountability