



LIFE GROUP STUDY

LIVING WITH REJECTION

1 Peter 2:4-12

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1. What insight, principle, or observation from this message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

2. Do you think that Christians are experiencing rejection here in the United States? If so, are there any examples you would like to share?

3. Experiencing rejection is way too often a part of life. Can you share about a time when you experienced rejection? What was that like for you? Were you ever rejected because of your faith in Jesus?

4. Consider how does Peter describes the church (verses 5,9,10). What does it mean that we are:
 - “living stones”
 - “a spiritual house”
 - “a holy priesthood”
 - “a chosen race”
 - “a royal priesthood”
 - “a holy nation”
 - “a people for God’s own possession”

5. What role does God’s graciousness have in the above descriptions?

6. In verse 9, Peter reminds us that God has called us “*out of darkness into His marvelous light.*” What is “darkness” and what is “His marvelous light” (consider: John 1:4,5,9-11; Ephesians 5:3-8; 1 John 1:5-2:2)?
 - Consider the world and society in which we live. What is the prevailing philosophy of our society? How could it be described? Is the prevailing philosophy or our society constructive or destructive? Godly or ungodly? Sinful or righteous? Darkness or light?
 - How does this philosophy affect our homes, workplace, government, schools, and community?
 - What does it mean for us to be called from darkness into His light (consider Psalm 34:5; Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 1:14,15)?

7. In verse 9 how does Peter describe the purpose of God's graciousness to us? What are the "excellencies" of God (hint = you may get some different perspective on "excellencies" by checking other translations)? What does it mean to proclaim these?
8. Could we proclaim His excellencies if God had not called us? What does this say about how we can be effective in our calling to proclaim His excellencies? Consider what the following verses have to say about our relationship with God and our effectiveness as "proclaimers."
- Psalm 66:16-20
 - Romans 10:1
 - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
9. There are some distinct elements to the Gospel (the message of what God has so graciously done for us that we can praise Him for) that we are privileged to proclaim. Consider:
- Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6
 - Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15
 - Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18
 - Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6
 - John 1:12
 - 1 John 5:11,12; John 5:24
10. Can God's graciousness to you (your uniqueness and calling) make a difference for you when you experience rejection?
11. Verses 11 and 12 are Peter's points of application. What could these points of application mean for you personally?
- God's people are to live exemplary lives.
 - God's people are to leave no room for slander.
 - God's people are to do good deeds among unbelievers.
 - God's people should never forget they are being watched.