

READ 1 PETER 1:13-2:8

1. Peter's language of, "living stones" and, "a holy priesthood" in 2:5 is a reminder that in the church, everyone plays. Peter's vision for the church is not that it would be full of spectators who cheer on the "professionals", but a collection of people who have been joined together by the cornerstone, Christ, and are seeking to live lives of gospel distinction together.
 - a. Why is it so important that we live life together? Why is this so difficult to actually do?
 - b. Peter reminds us, "to be holy" as God is holy. What about our Christian communities should be distinct? What about us should be "set apart"? In what ways are you currently trying to live holy, set apart lives from the culture around you? How can your group look more like Jesus?
 - c. Peter talks about loving one another from the heart. John 3:35 reminds us that the world will know we are his disciples by our love for one another. Why is our love for one another so important for the world around us to see? In what ways are you demonstrating the love you've received in Christ to one another?

2. GROUP EXERCISE. On page 42-43 of *Everyday Church* there is a list of questions to help us take on the mindset of a missionary by helping us understand our culture. Use the excerpt below to help begin to see the world around you with missional eyes.
 - a. Where are the places and activities we can meet people (the missional spaces)?
 - b. Where do people experience community?
 - c. What are the patterns and timescales of our neighborhood (the missional rhythms)?
 - d. When are the times we can connect with people (the missional moments)?
 - e. When should we be available to have missional opportunities?
 - f. What gospel stories are told in the neighborhood? What gives people identity (creation)? How do they account for wrong in the world (fall)? What is their solution (redemption)? What are their hopes (consummation)?



Imagine you woke up one day to discover that you had become a missionary in a foreign land. The language, the culture, the worldview, and the values are all unfamiliar. Fortunately you are part of a team. What are you going to do? Together you are going to learn the language and the culture. You are going to explore how the Bible story interacts with the outlook of the people around you. You are going to try to connect with them at a relational level.

This is the situation in which the church in the West finds itself. The culture has moved on. It is not what it was a hundred years ago when it was significantly shaped by the Bible story. We need to wake up and realize we are in a missionary situation. We cannot continue to undertake mission in a pastoral mode. We cannot assume people feel any need or obligation to attend church. We cannot even assume we understand the culture.

We need to operate as a community of missionaries in a foreign land.

Excerpt above from: Everyday Church: Gospel Communities on Mission (Re:Lit) (p. 37). Crossway.