

DISCOVERING WHAT WE BELIEVE: Week 7 | *DEVOTIONAL*

EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Day 1

1 Peter 2:4-10

The concept of the Church as a "living Stone" is profoundly significant. Just as Christ is the cornerstone, we, as a community of believers, are each unique living stones that collectively build up the Church. Our imperfections, when offered to God, contribute to a beautiful design that reflects His glory. This reflects the unity amidst diversity God desires in His Church, where each person has a vital role in the overall structure. Moreover, embracing our identity as part of a "royal priesthood" calls us to take on the responsibility of sharing God's light and love with the world around us. It's a reminder that being part of the Church isn't just about the buildings we gather in; it's about the mission to embody Christ's message and serve others. In this way, we can be a source of hope and healing in a world seeking meaning and connection.

- What does it mean for you to be a living stone in the Church?
- How can embracing unity in diversity enhance your community?
- In what ways can you actively participate in being the Church beyond the walls of a building?
- Pray for the ability to see the importance of every member of the Church community.
- Reflect on areas where you can be more involved as a living stone.

Day 2

Acts 2:42-47

The early Church experienced a remarkable unity as they devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles, fellowship, and prayer. This passage illustrates a community centered around the love of Christ, sharing their resources, and ensuring that no one was left in need. It serves as an essential model for us today as we seek to foster connection and support among believers. In today's fragmented society, the call to unity is more critical than ever. The Church is meant to be a beacon of hope, demonstrating what it can look like when individuals come together with a common purpose. As we reflect on this, we should consider our participation in nurturing this sense of community and actively supporting one another in faith.

- How can you create a sense of community within your church?
- What practices help you stay connected with other believers?
- In what ways can sharing resources enhance your fellowship with others?
- Reflect on the importance of being a part of a supportive community of faith.

Day 3

Matthew 28:19-20

Known as the Great Commission, this scripture highlights Jesus' directive for His followers to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations. This command affirms that the mission of the Church extends far beyond its physical structure; it is about reaching out, engaging, and sharing Christ's love with the world. Each of us plays a role in this endeavor, whether by preaching, serving, or simply living out our faith authentically. As we consider the diverse expressions of the Church today, we recognize the importance of adaptability in fulfilling our call to share the Gospel. Creativity and innovation can lead us to new ways of engaging with those around us, inviting them into the light of Christ. By embodying this mission, we become active participants in God's plan to bring His love to the world.

- How can you personally engage in making disciples in your community?
- What barriers can you identify that may prevent you from fulfilling this calling?
- In what creative ways can you share the Gospel with others?
- Pray for courage and wisdom to follow the Great Commission.
- Reflect on how your unique gifts can enhance the mission of your church.

Day 4

1 Peter 2:9-10

The idea of being a "chosen people" and "God's special possession" is both profound and empowering. Understanding our identity in Christ is crucial to living out the mission of the Church. It shapes how we view ourselves and how we view others. When we recognize that we are valued by God, it inspires us to live in a way that reflects His love and grace. This chosen identity elevates our self-worth and emphasizes our responsibility to share the Message of hope with others. As part of this identity, each of us is called to declare His praises, highlighting the transformation that comes from being part of God's family. Our lives should be a testament to the incredible grace and love bestowed upon us.

- How does knowing you are chosen by God influence your daily life?
- What actions can you take to represent God's love in your community?
- In what ways can you celebrate your identity in Christ with others?
- Pray and thank God for choosing you as part of His family.
- Reflect on how you can declare His praises in your daily interactions.

Day 5

Ephesians 3:20

As we conclude our devotional journey, we are reminded of the immeasurable power of God at work within us. This scripture encourages us to dream big and trust that God can do far more than we can ask or imagine. It encapsulates the mission of the Church: to be bold in faith,

confident in God's promises, and responsive to His calling. Embracing this promise allows us to pursue the calling of being Christ's hands and feet on earth. We are encouraged to step out in faith and let God work through us, ultimately impacting lives and building His Kingdom. Our journeys are intertwined with the collective mission of the Church, and together we can trust that God will accomplish what He has set out to do in and through us.

- What dreams do you have for your involvement in the Church?
- How can you take steps of faith to fulfill that vision?
- In what areas of your life are you seeking God to do the impossible?
- Pray for the courage to trust in God's power and presence.
- Reflect on how God has already worked in your life and through your church community.