



## ***Walking in Confidence***

**INTRODUCTION:** When an individual's faith is tested through trials and circumstances he is prone to live in doubt, discouragement, and fear. However, through God's Word we learn that a believer doesn't have to live in such defeat. Because of His presence and His present work in our lives, even in times of trials we can be confident in Who He is and what He has declared us to be. This confidence gives us the perspective we need to walk in victory in times of testing.

**READ:** 1 Peter 2:4-10

### **DISCUSSION:**

1. Have you ever been mining for gems? If so, share your experience with the group and answer the following questions: (If no one in your group has done this, answer hypothetically – pretend you and your group are going on an expedition) Where/when did you go looking for gems? What was difficult about the process? What did you enjoy about the process? What did you find? What did you do with your gems once?
2. How is the illustration from the previous question a great illustration of what God does in the life of a believer? According to 1 Peter 2:5, what does Jesus do with each of the "stones" He chooses? The verse says we are "being built up". What does this verse suggest about the way God is building His Church?
3. Read Ephesians 2:13-16, 19-22 and answer these questions:
  - Who is the Cornerstone?
  - How does this reality impact the church?
  - How does it impact each of our lives?
  - What is the promise found in Ephesians 2:21?
4. According to Ephesians 4:11-16, what servants has God given for the growth of the Church? What is the primary calling of those servants? In these verses, what does God call all the Church to do?
5. Carefully read 1 Peter 2:6-8. What is the key difference between someone who is a part of God's building and someone who is not? Ask the members of the group if anyone would like to share their story about when they experienced this change and believed in Christ.
6. According to 1 Peter 2:8, what was the main reason that so many people rejected Jesus when He came to this earth and in what ways do we still see this today?
7. In 1 Peter 2:9, God refers to believers in four specific ways. Identify each one and then state which one encourages you the most in this season of your walk. Which one do you think would have been most encouraging to the original readers of Peter's letter who were facing severe persecution?
8. Because we are a royal priesthood we are called to offer up spiritual sacrifices. Pastor Matthew listed four specific spiritual sacrifices.
  - Discuss and describe each one and ask each group member to examine their lives and evaluate whether or not they are offering these sacrifices to the Lord.
  - Are there any others that should have been included?
9. According to 1 Peter 2:9b, we have been saved and changed for what reason?
  - Why is it important that we fulfill this calling?
  - What are some ways that we can practice this throughout the upcoming Easter season?

**TAKE IT WITH YOU:** I can walk in confidence in Christ because of the position and connection I have to Him.

**READING LIST:** **Monday:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 / **Tuesday:** Ephesians 2:11-22 / **Wednesday:** Ephesians 4:1-6 / **Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 / **Friday:** Ephesians 4:11-16 / **Saturday:** Hebrews 10:19-25 / **Sunday:** Hebrews 13:10-16