Lesson 3 – 1 Peter 2:1-12 God's People: A Chosen Race…A Holy Nation
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(1) So, put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation --- if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good!

(4) As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stone are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

(6) For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame."

(7) So, the honor is for you who believe. But for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

(9) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(11) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

<u>Think on these things</u>:

1) Let's "unpack" the guidance of v.1 of things to "put away" from our lives. Use your own simple definition:
   Malice - _____

   Deceit - _____

   Hypocrisy - _____

   Envy - _____

   Slander - _____

2) Read Hebrews 5:11-6:3. This is a discussion about 'spiritual milk.' What does Paul consider spiritual milk for Christians? He tells us in v.2 to "long" for it so we may grow up.

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3) From the Hebrews passage, what are Christians supposed to do as they "grow up?"

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4) From vs. 5 & 9, what are God's people referred to as (several "labels")? From Romans 12:1, what must Christians do to give God spiritual worship and sacrifices (v.5)?

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5) Who were the priests of the Old Testament, and who are the priests of the New Testament? Who is the High Priest of the New Testament (see Hebrews 10:11-13 and 19-22)?

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6) Can you explain what a cornerstone is and how it is used? How does this apply to Jesus?

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7) What is shared about believers and non-believers in vs. 6-8 with Jesus as our 'Cornerstone?'

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8) V.9 says we are a "chosen people…for His own possession." What a blessing to be cherished by God! Once we were not a people --- so how did we suddenly become God's people (v.10)?

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9) Let's end with practical commands (vs.11-12). What are we to NOT do, and what are we TO do? Whose soul is at stake here, and where is this battle? Consider Romans 6:12-14 and 7:21-25, Ephesians 6:10-12, and 1 Peter 5:8 in this last answer. <u>This is why we declare the excellencies of God</u>, because He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (v.9)!

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: