

w/b 24th March 2019 THEME: ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL / GROWING UP IN CHRIST

PASSAGE: 1 Peter 2:1-12

Read aloud the following extract from Peter Pan:

"Would you send me to school?" [Peter] inquired craftily.

"Yes . . . "

"I don't want to go to school and learn solemn things," he told her passionately.

"I don't want to be a man. O Wendy's mother, if I was to wake up and feel there was a beard!"

"Peter," said Wendy the comforter, "I should love you in a beard." Mrs. Darling stretched out her arms to him.

"Keep back, lady, no one is going to catch me and make me a man."

(James M. Barrie, Peter Pan [New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911], p. 228.)

LAUNCH

In what ways are you tempted to follow Peter Pan's approach to life?

Read 1 Peter 2:1-12

DISCOVERY

Peter speaks here of two aspects of Christian growth: individual and corporate. How might the five inner sins of verse 1 damage outer relationships with other believers?

As you read the list of inner sins in verse 1 which one of these threatens you the most and why?

What is spiritual milk and how do we acquire it? How do the spiritual disciplines of verse 2 help deal with the inner sins of verse 1?

Jesus as the living stone causes some to stumble and others to be joined as stones being built into a spiritual house. There doesn't seem to be much middle ground. Why not?

As living stones we are being built into a living house with other living stones and Christ as the cornerstone. How does this picture of church life challenge us in the way that we should be living together?

We are also a royal priesthood offering sacrifice. Clearly the physical sacrifices of the Old Testament are redundant. So what spiritual sacrifices should we be offering?

Verse 11 repeats a now familiar theme in 1 Peter—that Christians are aliens and strangers in the world. How might living up to the description of verse 9 cause a Christian to be alienated from the world?

In what ways does sin wage war against our souls? How do we go about fighting this war effectively?

APPLICATION

How could today's passage help you overcome a tendency to become a spiritual Peter Pan?

Responding in Prayer Ask God to rid you of "all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind."

Original study by IVP on 1 Peter - adapted