

iii) Come to Me

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest’
Mtt 11:28

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. *Is 55:1*

In a nutshell ...

You are invited to come to a real, divine person, to a Saviour who’s alive and who’s here – right now!

This is something that no other faith can offer.

Jesus says ...

Are you weary and burdened? – come to Me.

Are you thirsty? - come to Me.

There is only one answer for all of our needs each day, why waste time trying to sort things out ourselves, let’s come to Him.

There’s only one answer for the church – let’s come to Him.

‘As you come to him, the living Stone ... you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house’ *1 Peter 2:4-5*

Pause for Personal Prayer



Are you hungry or thirsty for something more? Come to Him as you pray.

Discuss



- What does it mean to you personally to ‘come to Jesus’ – discuss.
- What helps and what hinders you from coming to Him.

Taking it Further

- Over the week find new ways and revisit old ways to come to Him. Enjoy Him.



1: As you Come to Jesus

‘As you come to him, the living Stone ... you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house’ *1 Peter 2:4-5*

In a nutshell ...



At the heart of our faith there is an invitation – an invitation to come to a real Person, to a living Saviour who’s here for each of us right now!

In this short series of 3 studies we’ll be looking at God’s Big Picture for his Church:

- That we are called to come to Jesus, to a relationship with Him
- That we are living stones – carrying His own life
- That God Himself is building us into a place where He can dwell!

Being part of God’s vision for His church is a wonderful privilege – let’s cherish it as we study together.

Hope you enjoy!

Sue

A suggested outline for the session

Open with worship and prayer

Divide your time between the 3 sections

In each of the 3 sections ...

. Ask someone to read the scripture & reflection

. Pause for a few minutes of personal prayer

. Then discuss the questions given

. At the end allow 10mins for personal prayer

i) As you come to Him

'As you come to him, the living Stone ...' *1 Peter 2:4*

'Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." *John 1:38-39*



The invitation:

At the heart of our Gospel we are simply invited to come to Jesus.

To come to a living Saviour, someone who's alive and who's here.

We're invited to come to a divine Person who exists, with thoughts and feelings, someone who loves each of us passionately and jealously.

At times it may seem easier to keep God at a distance with rules and regulations but Jesus breaks through that and invites us to come to **Him**.

The need to respond:

We can get a wonderful invitation in the post and keep it on the mantelpiece while we think about it - we haven't responded until we reply.

Jesus invites us to come to Him at our first commitment of faith but then He invites us to come to Him again and again ...

Jesus invites you to come to Him today, what is your response?

Pause for Personal Prayer



Pause to hear His invitation to come again today – what's your response?

Discuss



- Do you think of Jesus as alive, real, here? - discuss.
- What difference does that or could that make in your life?
- Has your response to Him changed over the years? What is it now?

ii) The living Stone

'come to him, the living Stone ...' *1 Peter 2:4*

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone' *Ps 118:22*

'For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ' *1 Corinthians 3:11*



The cornerstone:

Cornerstone definition from Wikipedia: '*The cornerstone (or foundation stone or setting stone) is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.*'

Jesus Christ is the only cornerstone, laid by God *Isaiah 28:16* but rejected by the religious *Ps 118:22, Lk 20:17, Mtt 21:42, Isaiah 53:3*

'Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved' *Acts 4:12*

When Jesus invites us to come to Him, there is no other option if we want to be saved. There is no other foundation upon which God builds His church.

The only way:

In today's world which is cautious of absolutes, always wanting options and choice, we need to be careful that we keep to the Master Builder's blueprint.

Let's be careful of human ideas, alternatives or even our own passion as we seek to see God's Church grow - Jesus is God's only way.

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone' *Ps 118:22*

Pause for Personal Prayer



Jesus is the cornerstone for you and for the church. Take a few moments to pray.

Discuss



- What does it mean that Jesus Christ is our corner stone?
- Do we ever rely upon other ways to try to 'build God's Church'?