

# BECOMING LIVING STONES

Facilitator & Discussion Guide

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*Dear Living Stone,*

I have prayed for you!

Before you ever stepped onto the path of *Becoming Living Stones* my prayer has been that *you* would be impacted by the message — that you would come more alive to your truest self and become more and more of a holy habitation for our beautiful King! Now to keep on growing, and to share what you've received, you are about to multiply this message of restoration and freedom as you impact the lives the Lord has placed in your path.

This 10 week Study and Discussion Guide will be a pathway to follow as you gather the people around you to share in the healing, freedom, and joy that you've experienced.

Whether with two, or more, you will be an instrument for bringing greater levels of connection and growth to God's people.

Thank you for serving the Lord and His body by gathering hungry people together and serving satisfying truth. Thank you for giving what you have received. Through your own restoration and obedience to share the Good News, God's Kingdom is expanding and His goodness is reaching and restoring the hurting and the lonely. They need what you have and you are ready to give. You are just the one for this task!

All In,  
*Denaë*

## For the Facilitator

1. You don't need to know all the answers, you just need to be willing to go first! If you are open with your life and willing to lead by honest example, then facilitating this study will be a success.
2. Ask the Lord who to invite on this journey. When I held groups at my house I invited friends old and new. See who the Lord brings to your mind and share the offer. When they're willing, welcome them in.
3. Plan 10 weeks for the study, and an hour and a half or so for each meeting. Find a place where people will be comfortable opening up and sharing matters of the heart. The "Get to know you more questions" are a fun way to help friendships grow. Breaking bread can facilitate friends like family too, but isn't necessary. Coffee and tea is nice, but the choice to eat, or drink, or not, is up to you!
4. Each participant will need a copy of *Becoming Living Stones* and a journaling notebook. Encourage all to read the assigned chapters before each meeting and journal their responses to the questions at the end of each chapter.
5. Before each gathering, read the assigned chapters and respond. Prepare your heart and mind by praying for the Lord's will to be done in the group and in the heart of each attendee. Prepare the setting by welcoming the Lord's presence.
6. Within the meeting, welcome the Lord and invite Him to lead. Be sensitive to His Spirit and remember to always point attendees to Jesus. He is our answer, our Healer, Counselor, and closest Friend.
7. Awkward silence is okay! Some need more time to process than others, so allowing the space gives the time that's often needed to formulate a response.
8. If conversation goes off topic for too long, redirect it by referring back to the chapter of discussion. Be aware of the time to ensure you begin and close on time. Begin with prayer and close with prayer. You can invite others to pray and pray for one another too.
9. Read "For the Group" at your first meeting and revisit as needed. The meeting guide will help you journey together as you continue *becoming living stones*.

## For the Group

(Read aloud at the first meeting and revisit as needed.)

1. To make the most of the time together, please read the assigned chapters before gathering and be ready to discuss the parts that are meaningful to you. Journal as you journey by recording your response to the questions in the section called “Meditate” at the end of each chapter. Decide with the Lord what you want to share with the group.
2. Honor one another by really listening, without interruption or advice. One of the best gifts we can give is to truly listen. Prayer is also a powerful way to make an eternal impact.
3. Share from your own experiences and keep the focus on your own heart. Some will want to share often and others not as much. Be considerate of one another and make room for each one to respond as they are ready. These gatherings are meant to be a safe place to share matters of the heart, so please keep what is shared within the group.
4. Remember the Holy Spirit is present and He leads each one to revelation at just the right time. Follow His leading and trust Him to do the work.
5. Contribute to the success of the group by arriving on time and helping to wrap up on time.
6. Awkward silence is okay! Some need more time to process than others, so allow for the space that’s needed for all to formulate a response.
7. Feel free to vary from the guide and make this study your own. Please share your experience and ideas with us at [alavishinglife.com](http://alavishinglife.com).
8. Enjoy this time together! You are forming bonds that can last a lifetime as you open your hearts and help one another heal and grow into who you were made to be. The weeks will go by quickly, so try not to miss even one. And when *you’re* ready to lead, gather a group and show them the way!

## Meeting #1

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone and introduce one to another.

**Get to know you icebreaker:** *What is one of your favorite childhood memories?*  
(Going around the room, allow each one to share.)

Pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Facilitator:** Share some of your personal experience of reading *Becoming Living Stones* and why you chose to gather this group.

Read aloud the Section One Introduction “The Brick—The Work Begins Within” on page 1.

**Open Discussion:** Ask each one to share what they hope to get out of the study and time together.

Close in prayer.

**Homework:** Read the Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2, and journal your response to the questions at the end of each chapter.

## Meeting #2

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *Tell us about your first job.* (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)

Pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 1 & 2

What stood out to you in Chapter 1?

What revelation would you like to share from the journal questions?

Do you have new insight into how you feel about trusting God from Chapter 2?

Wrap up discussion.

Ask someone to close in prayer.

**Homework:** Read Chapters 3 and 4, and journal your response to the questions at the end of each chapter.

## Meeting #3

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *Where did you grow up? Tell us something special about that place.* (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 3 & 4

What belief is the Lord speaking to you about while reading Chapter 3?

Have you believed anything about God that is untrue?

What truth is the Lord revealing to you about Himself?

What stood out to you in Chapter 4?

Wrap up discussion.

Close in prayer.

**Homework:** Read Chapters 5 and 6, and journal your response to the questions at the end of each chapter.

## Meeting #4

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *What is a trait that you had in childhood that you'd like to bring to life again? Or, what is a trait that the Lord has helped you overcome? (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)*

Pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 5 & 6

What stood out to you in Chapter 5?

What do you want to share about any records of unforgiveness you've been holding onto that you're ready to release?

What do you hear the Lord saying?

What would you like to share from Chapter 6?

Wrap up discussion.

Close with reading the prayer together from page 63.

**Homework:** Read “Section Two: The Bread—Our Sustenance”, Chapters 7 and 8, and journal your response to the questions at the end of each chapter.



## Meeting #5

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *Who is someone you look up to and why?* (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)

Ask someone to pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 7 & 8

Is there a part of God that you have resisted?

What part of the Lord do you want to know more? Explain.

What is your time like with the Lord when you read His Word?

Do you use a Bible reading plan or checklist?

**Facilitator:** If you'd like, have a few copies of your favorite plan printed, or, if applicable, demonstrate the reading plan app that you like to use.

Here are a few good links to check out:

[https://www.faithagcarthage.org/Divine\\_Mentor\\_Bible\\_Reading\\_Plan\\_2.pdf](https://www.faithagcarthage.org/Divine_Mentor_Bible_Reading_Plan_2.pdf)

<http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org/bibrdgck.pdf>

Wrap up discussion.

Close in prayer.

**Homework:** Read “Section Two: The Bread—Our Sustenance”, Chapters 9, 10, and 11, and journal your response to questions at the end of each chapter.

## Meeting #6

(At this gathering, consider taking Communion together. Prepare beforehand with grape juice and crackers or bread. Consider asking two participants to lead using the prayer from the close of Chapter 11 as a guide.)

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *How would you describe a good friend?* (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)

Pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 9, 10, & 11

What is your experience with praying the Lord's Prayer?

Did Chapter 10 challenge you in any way?

Who is someone that the Lord has clearly brought into your life to walk beside you as you walk with Him?

Wrap up discussion.

**Share Communion:** Read Isaiah 53:5-6 (on page 118).

Pass out the juice and have the selected person lead the group in taking the cup.

Pass out the bread and have the selected person lead the group in taking the bread.

**Homework:** Read "Section Three: The Tools — Filled and Empowered" on page 123, Chapters 12 and 13, and journal your response to the questions at the end of each chapter.

## Meeting #7

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *What is something in your life right now that you are really thankful for?* (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)

Pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 12 & 13

Share about a time when the Lord demonstrated His faithfulness to you personally.

What truth is standing out to you from Chapter 13?

How do you want to change your mind into more celebration?

Wrap up discussion.

Consider playing “Gratitude” by Brandon Lake at the close of the meeting.

Ask someone to close in prayer.

**Homework:** Read Chapters 14, 15, and 16, and journal your response to the questions at the end of each chapter.

## Meeting #8

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *What was your favorite subject in school and what did you enjoy about it?* (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)

Ask someone to pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 14, 15, & 16

Are there any sources of words that are robbing your peace or any voices that you don't need to hear?

What truth of God's Word do you want to align with and intentionally speak aloud for this time in your life?

What is your one of your earliest experiences with the Holy Spirit?

What does worship mean to you?

Wrap up discussion.

Close in prayer.

**Homework:** Read "Section 4: The Robe — A New Life" on page 181, Chapters 17 and 18, and journal your response to the questions at the end of each chapter.

## Meeting #9

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *What is your Enneagram number? Tell us something you've learned about yourself!* (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)

Pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 17 & 18

What has made it hard for you to believe that God truly loves you?

What do you hear the Lord saying about His love for you now?

What can love without limits look like with people who are hard to love?

What does a healthy boundary look like to you?

Wrap up discussion.

Close with reading the prayer from Chapter 17 on page 192.

**Homework:** Conclude the book by reading Chapters 19 and 20, and journal your response to the questions at the end of each chapter.

## Meeting #10

(Consider having a celebration pot-luck to conclude this part of your journey together!)

**Facilitator:** Welcome everyone.

**Get to know you more icebreaker:** *What is one of your stronger gifts and what is a gift you'd like to grow in?* (Go around the room and allow each one to share.)

Ask someone to pray and intentionally welcome the Lord into your gathering.

**Open Discussion:** Chapters 19 & 20

What is one thing you're passionate about?

In what ways are you using your gifts to serve the Lord and His body? Explain.

Do you have an idea that keeps coming to mind to serve the church and glorify the Lord?

What step can you take to act on it in faith and further the Kingdom?

Wrap up discussion.

Close with praying for one another. As you pray, listen for the Lord's leading and share what you hear Him saying.

**Homework:** Stay connected!