

ONE GENERATION AWAY

Week 3 | 50 Years of Reshaping | Teacher: Libin Abraham

Sermon Questions for 8.23.2026

OPENER

Libin opened by celebrating fifty years of Bent Tree, inviting people to stand based on when they joined the story. Then he drew a distinction that framed the whole message: a monument is built to stay the same, but a house is built for life to keep happening inside it. Bent Tree is not a monument to what God once did. It is a living house where God is still building, and this anniversary is a moment to make ourselves available for what comes next.

READ

1 Peter 2:4-10

MAIN POINTS

1. Jesus Shapes Us

Peter calls Jesus the living cornerstone and says those who come to him become living stones built together into a spiritual house. Libin noted that Peter says we "are being built," not "have been built," meaning God's reshaping work is never finished. The moment a church believes it is done being built is the moment it begins its journey toward becoming a monument. Jesus does not just shape us individually; he fits us together through a shared cornerstone, making room for every person he brings.

2. Jesus Reshapes the World Through Us

God's plan for a broken world is his church, indwelt by the Holy Spirit and sent on mission. Peter gives the church two purposes: upward worship, offering our lives as spiritual sacrifices, and outward witness, proclaiming the praises of the one who called us out of darkness. The most important story in Bent Tree's history, Libin said, is the one that has not happened yet. We are not a monument. We are God's temple on the move.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- Libin described the difference between a monument and a living house. Which word better describes the way you have been approaching your own faith lately? Why?
- Peter says we "are being built," not "have been built." Where do you sense God is still actively reshaping something in you right now?
- Libin said Jesus fits us together, not just shapes us individually. Who in your life represents a "living stone" very different from you? What does their presence add that you could not provide on your own?
- The church's two purposes in this passage are upward worship and outward witness. Which comes more naturally to you, and which requires more intentional effort?
- Libin closed by inviting people to stand as a sign of availability, not based on when you came, but based on where you are going. What would it mean for you to say to Jesus, "I am available for whatever you want to do through me next"?
- This week, take one step toward either deepening your worship or stepping into witness. Who in your life might need to hear what Jesus has done for you?

BOTTOM LINE

We are not a monument to what God once did, but a living house he is still building, shaped by Jesus our cornerstone and sent to reshape the world with his love.