



FOUNDATIONS

CONVERSATION #6: THE CAPSTONE CHALLENGE

READ: LIVING STONES

Every building has two stones that matter more than any others: the *cornerstone* and the *capstone*. The **cornerstone** is the first stone laid. It sets the alignment. It decides the direction. If it's off - even by an inch - the entire structure drifts. The **capstone** is the finishing stone. It locks everything in place. It carries weight. It proves the building is strong enough to stand. You may not know this, but scripture uses the same imagery to describe *you*.

In **1 Peter 2:4-5**, Peter writes that Jesus is the Cornerstone, and we are "living stones," being built into a spiritual house. Not stones stacked in a field. Not decorative pieces. Living stones - placed by God with purpose, shaped by Him with intention, and strengthened by Him to carry real weight.

And every living stone eventually reaches a moment of shaping - a moment where what's been formed actually gets tested, strengthened, and set. That's what today is.

These Formations conversations have been laying stones in your life – things like identity, the power of the Holy Spirit, the purpose and power of spiritual growth, and the importance of differentiating feelings vs. faith. Each piece matters. But you don't become a strong building by *talking about stones*. You become strong by *standing as one*.

Today is your **capstone moment** - where all the pieces we've been building come together through one meaningful challenge. Not theory. No discussion. Action. A moment where a living stone learns to carry weight. This is the step that shifts you from being someone who is *fed* to someone who is learning to *feed themselves*. You aren't just learning about spiritual formation anymore - you're stepping into the building God is making you to be.

THE CHALLENGE:

Growth happens when you step out of being *fed* and begin practicing feeding yourself. This week you're going to take on one meaningful challenge - not something random, but something that will stretch you and strengthen what God's been building in you. Today, you will begin the first of seven total challenges in the Spiritual Child phase. Here's how it will work:

Milestone Challenge #1: THE CAPSTONE CHALLENGE - Lead a Short Devotional of 10-15 minutes in length for a group of your friends and family.

You will prepare and share a **10–15 minute devotional** this week using a passage you study on your own. You'll choose the scripture, observe it, draw out the main idea, and share what God is teaching you. This challenge helps you learn to:

- Open Scripture on your own
- Hear from God without someone spoon-feeding you
- Communicate what you learned with clarity and confidence
- Practice feeding *others* from what you fed *yourself*

LET'S ASK SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED:

- When could you share this devotion in the next week? **(SET A PLACE AND TIME)**
- Who would you like to invite? **(SEND THE INVITES)**
- Which Scriptures have been grabbing your attention or speaking into your life recently? **(PICK A PASSAGE)**

QUESTIONS FOR AFTER YOU HAVE SELECTED A PASSAGE:

- What stands out or is meaningful to you?
- If you had to summarize this passage in one sentence, what would you say?
- How does this passage apply to your life, or how could it apply to others?

DEVOTION OUTLINE (IF NEEDED)

1. **Read the passage** – Begin with some context if helpful, then read the passage.
2. **The Main Idea** – “Here’s the thing that God has been showing me ...”
3. **Share 2-3 key observations** – Share what stood out and what it reveals about God, people, or faith.
4. **Explain why this matters** – unpack why this passage is important for followers of Jesus today.
5. **Share one personal application** – tell how it has challenged, encouraged, or reshaped you.
6. **Invite a response** – Ask a reflection question that listeners can consider for themselves.
7. **Close with a simple prayer** – Ask God to help everyone live out what the passage teaches.

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Tonight, let's use our time to plan and prepare, because now you get to step into it. This devotional is your next step in taking ownership of your faith. I'm here to support you, but *you* will prepare and lead it because growth comes when you take initiative and trust the Holy Spirit to guide you. You're ready for this, and I'm excited to see what God shows you.