



# THE PERSON OF CHRIST

## WORKSHEET - EPISODE 4 *The Stone the Builders Rejected: The Cornerstone*

### “The rejected stone...”

1. On the basis of [Psalm 118:22](#), the New Testament identifies Christ as the Cornerstone five times (see [Matthew 21:33–46](#); [Mark 12:1–12](#); [Luke 20:9–19](#); [Acts 4:5–12](#); [1 Peter 2:1–10](#)).
  - This is a forgotten title of Christ, but a very important one. The stone comes from Israel, for it was from this chosen people that salvation would come for all.
  - Yet the stone is disallowed and rejected by the religious authorities.
  - This does not prevent the stone giving shape, however, to a new edifice, hewn out of Israel, but for all nations.

### “...Is become the cornerstone”

1. Christ is the Cornerstone of the Church and the life of every Christian, but also the Cornerstone of all things, of history and eternity.
  - We can see this at play in the way we count the years to and from Christ's birth. And also how we structure the seven day week, giving pride of place to Sunday, the day of resurrection, which is the cornerstone of new life.
  - If Christ is cornerstone, then his disciples are stones in the building he erects. St Peter (petros = stone/rock) as the chief apostle, is also a chief stone in that building. But he is one of an innumerable host. An influential early Christian text, the [Shepherd of Hermas](#), discusses the idea of every Christian being a stone in the Church's structure.

## Reflection & Discussion

1. If Christ is the Cornerstone of all things, how does he give shape to our own individual lives? Could we do more to recognize the importance of this title?
2. What traces of thinking about Christ as Cornerstone can we find in contemporary Western culture, which we may not even realize (e.g. our calendar system)? How important has the figure of Jesus been to the development of culture?

## Further reading

1. [1 Peter 2](#)

2. [Jaroslav Pelikan, \*The Illustrated Jesus through the Centuries\* \(Yale University Press, 1997\).](#)