



PETER

THE DISCIPLE MAKER

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Six

This Week's Memory Verse

..to keep in your pocket, memorize, and hide in your heart:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people for his own possession,
that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you
out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

Week Six, Day One

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:9-10

Devotional Reading

As Americans, many of us were fed individualism at an early age. Dr. Seuss enthuses in the book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*: "You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go."

Contrary to this, "if it will be, it's up to me," philosophy, our passage today reveals to us more about our corporate identity as God's people and what that means for our destiny as a congregation of followers of Christ. We are challenged to see our identity as a collective group; we have been chosen by God to be a priesthood, set apart and claimed by him!

There is no division among this godly priesthood. Verse 9 speaks of being God's chosen - words also found in the Old Testament in Exodus 19:5-6 and Deuteronomy 7:6. Yet verse 10 asserts that this passage is for the entire people of God, which now after Christ's death and resurrection is both Jew and Gentile: "once we were not a people, but now we are God's people."

Next, Peter reminds us that we have been called out of darkness and into God's marvelous light. We are invited to leave the dark shadows of a lonely, self-focused life to enjoy the light of God's presence with others. In verse 9, the Greek word which is translated, "you," is plural, so it may sound something like, "that you (all of you) would proclaim the excellencies of him who called you (all of you) out of darkness...."

We have a new identity that binds us with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We (all of us) have been called out of darkness, and God is calling us (all of us) to share with the world how absolutely excellent he is.

Faith In Action

Brainstorm one thing you can do in the context of community to, "proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Grab a believing friend and have a meal with a non-believing friend to talk about God, choose a specific outreach that your small group can do in the community, or perhaps invite your neighbors over for a meal.

Today's Prayer

Lord, thank you that you have called your church out of darkness, and have created us to be a chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation and a people for your own possession. Help us to step into the calling that you have for us as a corporate body of believers and impact this world for your glory. May we not shy away from proclaiming your goodness together in this broken world.