

Small Group Discussion Guide

“WHO ARE YOU” (pt. 4) – 11.24.2013

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:2-12

Bottom Line: We are God's People.

INTRODUCTION:

Begin your small group with a fun and insightful question. Ask each person in your group to share what they wanted to be when they were a child?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read 1 Peter 2:2-4

This passage begins with an invitation to come to Jesus. Thankfully, the invitation is a call to come to a God who is very good! Jesus is described as precious, chosen, rejected and living eternally. He alone makes us right with the Father. Let us taste and see that He is good!

- 1) How do these verses describe Jesus? What do these descriptions mean for you personally?
- 2) Peter says, “if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good?” What do you think he means?

Read 1 Peter 2:5-8

Our identity in Jesus is clearly defined in these verses. As Christians, we are called a “holy priesthood of God”. This means that all Christians are able to draw near to God and give our lives to Him to use as He sees fit. We obtain this standing not because of our works, but because Jesus is our cornerstone. He is the One whom bore all of the weight of our sin. He is the One whom holds everything together. In Jesus we become precious and chosen in the sight of the Father.

- 1) Why do you think Jesus is described as the “cornerstone”?
- 2) We do not have to earn our standing with God. Jesus accomplished that on the cross on our behalf and our response is simply to have faith. How does this change the way you live out your life?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-12

Peter reminds us of our former identity apart from Christ. At one time we were not God's people and we had not received mercy. The Bible also describes us as hopeless, weak and dead in our sins before our faith in Jesus. However, because of Jesus we are given a new identity. We are identified as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and even referred to as God's special possession. How do we obtain such an identity? It is only found in Jesus. Because we are in Jesus we share in the riches of who He is. This changes everything! Our response to such radical grace is to live our lives in such a way that others come to know of our great God!

- 1) What stands out to you the most in these verses?
- 2) How can we live amongst people so that they "see our good deeds and glorify God"?

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

When asked, "who are you"? Most of us answer in a way that ties our identity to a relationship status, a job or our families. The problem is those things are always temporary! God enters into our life and offers an identity that is unending. We are no longer defined by our past mistakes. We are now God's precious possession. Once we are in Christ we are in Him forever! The reason it will never fade is because Jesus is the power source. He came to us, He gave His life for us, He was resurrected for us, He gave us grace, He pours out His Spirit to awaken our hard hearts, He calls us to faith and He empowers us to live by the power and assurance that He is returning. It is all about Jesus! In Him, we find hope, salvation and a new identity.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

- 1) Take time to discuss the following questions with your group.
 - a) Who is Jesus to you? (is He your cornerstone, precious to you?)
 - b) Who are we? What is our identity? (Are we God's people?)
 - c) How are we to live? (Remember, worship and live like Jesus?)
 - d) What's the power behind it all? (Is Jesus and the gospel the power behind your identity and living?)