

**Priests**

9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. 10 "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NLT)

Other very important context scriptures include:

Hebrews 9:1-10 (Roles of Priest in the OT);

Hebrews 9:11-28, Hebrews 8:1-5 Matthew 27:50-51 (Christ as our High priest, how/why everything changed),

Hebrews 10:19-22, 1 Peter 2:4-5 (What is different now for us because of our Priesthood)

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

**Discussion/Topic Starters** (Ice Breakers)

- Why do you think people tend to view the church building as more sacred than other locations?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

**V.9-10 (see also v.4-5)**

- O: Verse 9 starts out with "but," meaning it's contrasting with something previously. What is the context of these two verses and what can we observe/get from it?
- O: What does it mean to be a "royal priest"? Ensure you think about and discuss what the original readers of the bible would have pictured in terms of the calling and the roles of priests.
- I: Do you think the scripture is stating that the readers (us) will become like described in the passage, or that they/we already are these things now? Why? (Also see context of the passage such as v.4-5, v.11)
- A: In what ways would life be different if you thought of yourself in the terms used in these verses (ex. *chosen, royal priests, holy nation, God's possession, God's people, etc.*).
- A: When is it most difficult for you to embrace the identity/traits as described in this passage?

**Additional**

- Read Hebrews 10:19-22. What is the most meaningful part of this passage to you? Why?
- Read Hebrews 9:1-10 (&/or 9:11-28). How does an understanding of the tabernacle and temple system impact your view of Christ's sacrifice?

**Recommended Follow-up:**

- **Pray:** Thank Jesus for His work as our High Priest (Heb. 10:19-22), and how that has changed our identities to become priests. Pray that you would live out the specific callings and responsibilities as a priest.
- **Respond:** Spend this week studying the different elements in the O.T. tabernacle (start in Hebrews ch.9, then do some research in the OT, check out a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia and research the significance of each element in the Tabernacle, as well as how the O.T. priest interacted with them).
- **Read:** Next week's sermon (5/9/2010) will focus on 1 Peter 2:11-12 & Philippians 3:17-21. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.

\* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time.