

GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

Celebrate Your Priestly Calling

1. Get the conversation started. Discuss one of the following:
 - What is your favorite memory about your mother? Or
 - What makes the role of a mother especially challenging in our Safer-at-Home world?

2. Read Proverbs 31:1,10-31. King Lemuel's mother encourages her son to appreciate the gift of a woman who fears the LORD. Christian women say that this chapter makes them feel guilty because they compare themselves with the woman described here. Do you think that comparison trap is a common problem among Christian women and men? Why do people fall into that trap?

3. How might these passages help us battle that comparison trap?
 - Romans 7:18-19

 - Romans 8:1

 - 1 Peter 2:5

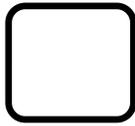
4. Christians are part of a "holy priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5). Priests in the Old Testament offered up sacrifices to God. What are our New Testament sacrifices?
 - Romans 12:1-2

 - Philippians 4:18

 - Hebrews 13:15-16

5. Close by celebrating your identity as God's New Testament people. Read together this adaptation of 1 Peter 2:9-10.

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that we may declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy. Amen.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

“If... Then...”

If Jesus has risen, then I live with purpose.

I Peter 2:4-10

1. If Jesus has risen, then marvel at God’s stonework.

- a. Jesus, the living Stone
 - i. Chosen by God
 - ii. Rejected by the “builders” just as foretold
- b. You, a living stone
 - i. In a place chosen by grace (I Peter 1:2)
 - ii. In a permanent place (I Peter 1:5)

2. If Jesus has risen, then you are a priest.

- a. With direct access to God
- b. Offering sacrifices acceptable to God.

3. If Jesus has risen, you have a story to tell.

- a. The darkness of comparison (Proverbs 31:10-31)
- b. The light under the cross

My Next Steps

- **Celebrate a Mother’s priestly calling:** In Proverbs 31:10-31. King Lemuel’s mother encourages her son to appreciate the gift of a woman who fears the LORD. She lists some of the things a godly woman would do about 1000 BC. Read Proverbs 31:10-31 with this question: What are the things that your mother does or has done that makes you praise God for her? Make a list like King Lemuel’s mother did. If possible, share it with your mother.
- **Celebrate a Mother’s priestly sacrifice:** No one fulfills any role perfectly. You can always find someone who does something better than you. But what makes a mother’s sacrifice acceptable to God? Memorize I Peter 2:5 as your answer: “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”