

06.10.18 - Creed - Dan Pursley

Leader Prep Section

- Prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select a few questions that are best suited to your group.
- Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.
- When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Goal: Talk about how the Spirit does not merely work in individuals but creates a community that carries the mission of Jesus and is a living witness to the character of Jesus.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

- What are some things that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
- Who is someone in your small group or at church who you are thankful for because they have totally different skills and gifts than you? Someone who plays a role you could never play?
- What is the best moment of teamwork you have ever seen in the church/ small group?

Background / Reading

Read: 1 Peter 2:4-10

- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Or observations that stand out to you immediately? (Remind those who share that we'll likely return to their ideas in our discussion!)

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

- What does it mean when it says that Jesus is like a living stone? How are we also like that?
- What are some different ways Christians are described in this passage? (like stones built into a house, a priesthood, chosen people, a holy nation, God's special possession, receivers of mercy)
- What are the spiritual sacrifices in v. 5?
- For what purpose are we God's chosen people? (v.9) What does that look like in real life?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

- Why does the author choose to describe all of us as a holy priesthood instead of just a holy Church, or family? What do priests do? How are we supposed to be priests to each other?
- Why do you think it's so difficult for American Christians to think of ourselves as one people-- God's people? What are some pros and cons of this perspective, and a more individualistic perspective?
- Oftentimes, we want to idolize one heroic person who we expect to do the work of God (pastors). Why do you think God has chosen a different method (priesthood teamwork) for showing his goodness and character to the world? ie., why does a team represent God better than an individual?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

- When we view ourselves as the people of God, instead of just as individual Christians, does it change how we interact with the world? With other Christians?
- In what ways have you been viewing yourself as an individual--unconnected to the rest of the church?

- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
 - In your thinking / identity?
 - In your actions as a priest within a priesthood?

Closing

- Prayer