

11.20.16 Identity
Discussion Questions

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 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.

Questions

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

1. Share a story of a time when you saw the truth trip someone up or experienced it for yourself.
2. When have you seen someone's life be so clearly beyond reproach that people see God more clearly through their actions?

Background

Peter wrote this letter toward the end of his life to those believers who were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. One of the main themes of the letter was to stand firm on the truth that Jesus was coming back and all the suffering they have endured would be worth it.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-12

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

1. In verses 4 through 6 what image does Peter use to describe Jesus?
2. When people do not believe in Jesus what examples does Peter give for how they respond to him?
3. What images does Peter use to describe the people who follow Jesus in verses 9 and 10?
4. According to Peter, when we are in the world among the pagans what should our life look like?

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

1. What example or analogy could you use today to give the same picture of Jesus that Peter does when he described Jesus as a living stone and the cornerstone?
2. How can you share the truth of Jesus with someone who is fully convinced that Jesus is irrelevant?
3. How would you bring the imagery of verses 9 and 10 into language people in your neighborhood would understand?
4. What does it mean to live as a foreigner in our home town?

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

1. What steps can you take this week that will enable you to live out the reality that Jesus is the example we are seeking to emulate?
2. What type of action can you take to show the love of Jesus to those who do not believe in him?

3. We are called not only to be united as a people following after Jesus, but also to be his representatives here as the priests were in ancient Israel. What does that mean for us; how do we accomplish it?
4. How do you live as a foreigner in this world without abandoning those who do not believe?

Closing

We are the most like Jesus when we love those around us and in this season that has created division we need to be people who are known for their love. Spend some time praying for opportunities to reach out with love to those who are different than you. Also, pray for one another to find strength and courage in the One who is with us and has already won the final victory.

Reminder: We did not come into this world by chance or happenstance and our true identity is defined and refined by Jesus. It is to him and him alone that we ultimately belong and he gives us our story and the lens through which to understand it.