**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