

When Moses saw the injustice suffered by the Hebrews in Egypt, he took matters in his own hands and murdered an Egyptian. (This did not end well for Moses.) It is good to be passionate about what is wrong in the world, but don't misplace your passion trying to make God move in the way you want Him to.

*We aren't just offering the world a great "vision statement" or branding. We must genuinely care enough for a hurting world to weep over them, pray for them, come before God on their behalf. Have you ever wept over someone's salvation needs?*

*The post-everything culture is looking for many things. Which of these do you believe you and this church body can offer them and which do we need to see grow in us?*

- meaningful dialogue about spiritual things • a place to belong
- genuine interactions with real people • close personal relationships

Some of us have grown numb to the needs of the unsaved, we need to be revived. Pray that God would increase your hunger for a deeper relationship with Him, and your passion to see others come to know Him.

## **WRAP-UP**

The world needs to be invited into a relationship with God. You can extend that invitation. The story of your rescue from darkness to the light and your special identity as chosen, priest and holy, is your first step to showing others the goodness of God. Hunger to know Him more so that you can share Him better and open the path for their journey from darkness to light.

## **MEMORY VERSE**

*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.*  
- 1 Peter 2:9 NLT

## **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

*Challenge- This week make a list of people who you believe need to know Jesus. Spend some serious time interceding for them.*

# ***"Loving in a Post-Everything World"***

**Invited #1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Everyone likes to see an invitation arrive because when it does it signals good things to come. We live in a culture that is "post-Christian", "post-family" and "post-everything else", a culture that longs for all the good things God has invited them into. Did you know, God extends invitations all the time? God invited us to be His own, and we get to share our invitation with others. It begins when we recognize our special identity and declare God's praises to others, and it becomes an invitation for them to join us. What do we invite them to? We show them the goodness of God and invite them out of darkness and into His Light.

## **Ice Breaker**

What was the last invitation you received?

## **Key Passage**

*1 Peter 2:9 NLT - 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.*

## **STUDY QUESTIONS**

### **1. Our Special Identity**

In our key verse, Peter tells us that it is because of our identity in God that we can show others His goodness and invite them out of darkness and into the light. So, let's first consider what's included in that identity. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and God's own possession.

- **Chosen People**

In the parable of the king's wedding feast (Mat 21:1-13) Jesus describes a wedding invitation extended first to his special guests, but when they didn't come, He invited everyone He could find. In the Old Testament we see Israel was called God's chosen people, and they were like the first wedding guests invited. But in the New Testament we find the invitation has been extended to everyone. God's "chosen ones" have become those who responded to the invitation to accept Jesus as their savior. God always knew who would respond and when they respond, it confirms that they are God's Chosen people.

*1 Peter 1:2 NLT - 2 God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.*

Peter tells us God chose you long ago, even before you chose Him. Somehow God saw the best in you when you were at your worst, and He loved you and wanted you in a relationship with Him.

*Do you remember a time when you were chosen for something? (Maybe to be on a team, or you were given a special responsibility) Who chose you and what did they choose you for? Did you rise to the occasion? Now think of God choosing you and the immense privilege it is to be called His own. How does your identity as God's chosen effect how you live your life?*

- **Royal Priesthood**

A royal priest in the bible is rare. Royalty came through David's lineage and priests came from Aaron thru Levi's line. The first king who was also a priest was Melchizedek, who was not from either of those family lines. Jesus is also both a king and priest. In our key verse Peter tells us we are royal priests, which is confirmed in Revelation 1:6 - and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Old Testament describes in detail the responsibilities of the priest. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies where God was present in the temple. To do so required extensive cleansing both physically and spiritually because nothing impure or unclean could enter the presence of God. Much of his role involved making sacrifices to cover the people's sins.

*How are we cleansed from our sins and impurities so that we have the privilege of continuous direct access to God?*

*Leviticus 4:20 NLT – 20b ... Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the LORD, and they will be forgiven.*

*What does Lev 4:20 tell us was the purpose of those sacrifices? If we are royal priests, what can we possibly do to accomplish this today (hint- we won't be offering sacrifices)*

We can stand in the gap between a Holy God and sinful man and show the goodness of God to the world. We can make intercession for them, but there is only one sacrifice that takes away sin and that is Jesus blood.

- **Holy Nation**

The people of God may come from diverse places, but God sees us as one nation. The customs and practices of a nation are guided by its laws. A holy nation is one guided by the laws of God. The word holy (*hagios*) means separated or set apart. As God's people we are to be "set apart" for God's service and guided by His laws.

*Do you see evidence that God's people are a holy nation? If so, how?*

If we are not distinguishable as different from the rest of our culture, how can we invite people into this new identity in Christ? But when you accept and live in the identity God has graciously given you, you will be able to declare the praises of Him who called you from darkness to light. You can call others to enter that same identity.

*How would you relate your "rescue story" out of darkness and into light of God?*

## **2. Invitation to a Post-Everything Culture**

*Exodus 2:11-12 NLT - 11 Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. 12 After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.*