

“Exiles – Chosen People” 1 Peter 2:1-10

Materials: a Bible

Lesson:

Begin with the game “Who Am I”. One person thinks of someone that everyone knows (a family member, someone famous, a character from a TV show, etc.). That person then gives clues or hints in order for the rest of the group to guess who it is that they are thinking of. Take turns, giving everyone in the group a chance to give the clues and hints about who it is they are thinking of.

When reading the book of 1 Peter, the main message is that there will be difficult days and even in those hard times, we should treat others with love and kindness. Having a bad day or difficult time is no excuse for acting badly. We are instructed to live holy lives just as God is holy.

Knowing how to live a holy life comes only from knowing God’s word. God’s word helps us when we have troubles. It reminds us that troubles are temporary. It tells us what to do in certain situations and it reminds us of God’s love.

Read together 1 Peter 2:9-10.

Knowing God’s word also encourages us when we are having troubles. This passage helps us know that we are special. God chose each of us! Think about that. God, who created everything - the sun and the stars, and everything there is – chose you and me! God loves us that much!

How would you encourage someone who was having a hard time? Would you send them a card or call them on the phone? Peter encourages each of us by reminding us who we are and just how special we are to God. We are chosen! God chooses us **and** calls us royalty. If you are royal then you belong to the family of a king. Do you know any kings? Yes we do! If we are a Christian, then we belong to God’s family. God is the king of the whole universe and we are his royal children, princes and princesses in God’s kingdom.

We are chosen, royalty and belong to a priesthood. In the Old Testament of the Bible, God called a certain group of men (the Levites) to serve as priests. They had special privileges and special responsibilities. These priests served as a bridge between God and man. In the New Testament we who are part of God’s family are the priests. We each have access to God. We can go directly to God and talk to him anytime.

As His royal priesthood, we have a special responsibility to pray for people and tell them about God. As God's people, we listen to God. We believe what God wants us to believe and do what God wants us to do. We obey God's rules and do the right things, even if other people don't.

God has chosen us to tell about all the wonderful things he has done. God has brought us out of the darkness and into the light and he has given us mercy. We were supposed to be punished for our sins, but God sent Jesus to die on the cross to take our punishment for us so that we could be forgiven for our sins, for all the wrong things that we have done. Jesus took our place. Believing in God and having God forgive us instead of punishing us for all the wrong things that we have done takes us out of the darkness and into his light as we receive his gift of mercy.

Peter is telling us that when difficult times come, to remember who we are. We are special. We are God's royal children. He chose us to follow him and to teach other people about him, and that he forgave us for all of our sins.

Close your time together in prayer. Thank God for choosing us to be his special, royal children. May we live in a way that will honor him.