

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - 1 Peter

Date - 13-Sep-2020

Topic - A Precious Priesthood (1 Peter 2:1-10)

Speaker - Elder Lee Ee Yang

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Lord, I Offer My Life To You
2. Jesus At the Centre of It All

BIBLE READING PLAN [10 min]

Take some time to talk about the Bible Reading Plan. The time of sharing can include the following:

- a) How's everyone's progress so far?
- b) What are some things that God has spoken to you through the various readings?

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. build their lives upon the cornerstone that is Jesus.
2. commit to ministering to God daily in our role as priests.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. We are a royal priesthood.
2. We are a redeemed people.
3. We are called to reflect a Holy God

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

As believers, we are chosen to represent God, to show how a people redeemed by God and belonging to God looks like, and to show the power and love of God to others. We are born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus. Peter says there has to be changes in

our lives as a result, in order for us to “Be Holy” (as expounded by Pastor Lionel last week) and to “Be Priests”.

1 Peter 2:4-5

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

As New Testament believers, everyone is a priest. We are each a living stone, built on the Cornerstone which is Christ, the anchor and foundation to our identity as priests.

What is the function of a priest? A priest is required to act as a mediator. He is one who represents God to his people and in return, represents God’s people back to God. He also acts as an ambassador, a chosen vehicle through whom God has chosen to serve His people and to represent Him.

Three Truths About The Royal Priesthood

1 Peter 2:9-10

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

1. We are a royal priesthood who serves the King (v 9)

- God is also coming to judge evil at the second coming. This is an important end time truth that we all need to embrace – God will not tolerate injustice. God will remove evil because He loves us. We represent a righteous King.
- Do we serve the King of Kings and Lords of Lords, or are we following the prince of this world? Are we influenced by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, or do we desire to be salt and light of this world, influencing the culture around us with the values of the King?

2. We are a redeemed people (v 10)

- The context of verse 10 is found in the story of Hosea. Peter references Hosea 2:23. We were all once like Hosea’s wife who worshipped other gods and the world. We were all like sheep that has gone astray, becoming the enemies of God. But just like how Hosea’s wife was redeemed, we were redeemed.
- You may think that you are beyond hope, so broken that God wouldn’t want you, so messed up that God cannot straighten you, so dirty or sinful that you can’t be saved. However, He sacrificed His son to redeem us all. That is how valuable we are to Him. When you understand redemption, you understand your worth to God. God wants you to know this truth.

3. We are called to reflect a Holy God (v 9)

- The first trait of holiness is single-mindedness. This person has his eyes fixed *only* on God. God is so thoroughly pre-eminent to him that everything else is less important. He is holy, in the sense that he is dedicated.
- Secondly, he is at peace with himself. He is not struggling with anyone nor within himself. He is at rest. He does not get upset when everything around him starts crumbling. This is what holiness is.

- Thirdly, he is interested in people. He is outward thinking. He is not always thinking about himself – his likes, his concerns, his comfort. He is thinking about others and is genuinely concerned with their well-being.

How do we apply the Word of God?

1. Restore order by building our lives on the Cornerstone.
 - Our identity and self-worth are given from above and realised through the Cross. They cannot be found in the world. Hold on to Jesus, our divine Anchor. Allow Him to define your purpose and give you direction. He will give you the assurance and peace to help you navigate the future.
2. As priests, develop a single-minded focus on God.
 - Learn to minister to God daily in worship, meditate on the Word and in prayer.
 - Real priests minister to the Lord every morning and evening. They present their sacrifices to God every day. They set out and partake of the showbread (which represents the Word of God), on the table. They light the lamps of the gold lampstand (representing God's light shining in this dark world). They are God's serious, dedicated and single-minded representatives.

When you do all these, you realise you walk with a profound confidence, a steadfastness that makes you not easily shaken. You will have wisdom that sets you apart from your colleagues. You will have authority over situations and love for your family. There will be a certain winsomeness that earns you favour from the people around you. This is the kind of priests that our Lord desires to represent Him.

Discussion Questions

1. **We are a chosen people called to a royal priesthood to serve God and His people (1 Peter 2:9). What does it mean to be a priest? [10 mins]**

Leaders' Notes

This is a recap question. When we say that we are priests, there is a connotation of duty – it goes beyond attending services, cell group meetings and doing the Bible Reading Plan. Get members to think what being a priest requires us to do especially in the times we live in. For example – what does it mean to be a priest in your home, at your workplace, etc.

Elder Ee Yang mentioned two functions of a priest:

- (1) *A priest is required to act as a mediator. He is one who represents God to His people and in return, represents God's people back to God,*
- (2) *He also acts as an ambassador, a chosen vehicle through whom God has chosen to serve the people and represent Him, on His behalf.*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

Let us be clear of our role as priests, and the ‘service’ that we do to serve the King who has so graciously redeemed us. Embrace this role given to us as believers and minister to God daily in gratitude.

2. How do you internalise your God-given identity and self-worth, and be at peace with yourself and everything around you? [15 mins]

Leaders' Notes

When we build our lives on the Cornerstone that is Christ and develop a single-minded focus on God, we will walk with a profound confidence – a steadfastness that makes us not easily shaken. We will have wisdom that sets us apart and helps us overcome life situations. Our love for our family will be of a different level and we will have a certain winsomeness that earns us favour from the people around us.

Don't we all want to lead a life like that? It is possible and it begins when we know our identity as God's chosen and find our self-worth in Him. We are valuable to God, so much so that He gave up His Son for us while we still did not know Him or had not acknowledged Him yet (Romans 5:8).

How do we internalise this truth? Here are some ways:

1. *Pray against unbelief. Ask God to help you believe His great love for you. (Mark 9:24 – "I believe; help my unbelief!")*
2. *Ask God to help us accept all that He has given us – the family we have, our parents, children, siblings, our jobs, the friends we have, and even our pasts.*
3. *Seek God first. (Matthew 6:33 – "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.")*
4. *God provides for us because we are His children and He loves us. Reflect upon how God has saved us and provided for us throughout our lives.*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

It is important to know our self-worth in God. We are valuable to Him. We are specially chosen by Him to serve Him. When we are proud of our identity, we will serve Him better and truly be the priests He desires to represent Him.

3. The priests in the Bible minister to the Lord every morning and evening. They present their sacrifices to God, set out and partake of the showbread (which represents the Word of God), and they light the lamps of the gold lampstand (representing God's light shining in this dark world). How do we, as priests, minister to God daily?

Leaders' Notes

Ask members to translate each action into a meaningful routine they can do daily:

- *What 'sacrifice' can they present to God? E.g., confession of our sins and repentance, surrendering of our desires for God's greater purpose, surrendering of our dreams to do God's will.*
- *What is the 'showbread' that they partake in? E.g., reading of the Bible, meditating on His Word, doing a devotion, prayer, transforming our minds, etc.*
- *What are the 'lamps of the gold lampstand' that they 'light'? E.g., our outward actions and behaviour, to represent God's light in this world.*

Closing

As priests, we have free access into the holy of holies, and we should offer up the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving, as well as present God's light in this dark world each day. May we all learn to grow in our role as the royal priesthood of God.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. That we embrace our role as priests who serve a Holy God:

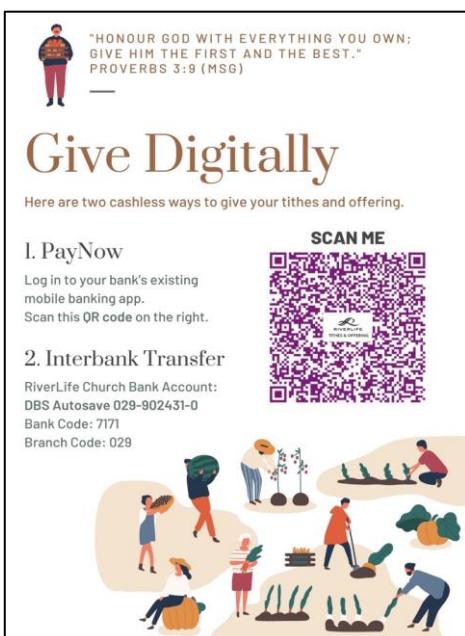
- Our identity and self-worth come from Jesus' redemption through the Cross. We are very valuable to God.
- That we will minister to God daily and be more and more Christ-like each day to live holy lives to reflect our King.

2. Pray for Phase 2 of the Circuit Breaker:

- that God will protect each and every one of us from COVID-19.
- that the community and dormitory cases will decrease till zero.
- that all active cases in hospitals and community facilities will be cleared and declared virus-free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading Plan. You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp.



Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.