

Psalm 31:1-5 & 15-16; Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14; 1Peter 2:2-10

GETTING STARTED

Think of a time when you were invited to be part of a community, group or team. What was special about this experience and how did it make you feel?

Have you ever been able to give someone else the gift of inclusion?

READ and REFLECT

Read 1Peter 2:9-10
How are you responding to this passage?

What comes to mind when you hear the words and phrases below?

- We are a chosen people. Chosen? People?
- We are a royal priesthood. Royal? Priesthood?
- We are a holy nation. Holy? Nation?

Do you struggle with the fact that you were chosen by God? Why or why not?

What responsibilities do you think come with being a royal priesthood?

What is Jesus promising us about the power of believing? (John 14:10-12)

Do you have any examples of God's power working through people or yourself?

How do we see evidence of this power and trust in Acts 7:55-60?

ENGAGE and DISCUSS

How are you challenged by reading John 14:10-14 and 1Peter 2:9-10? Do these passages make you think differently about the way you think, trust or live?

Knowing that we are called to be a holy nation (a Christian community) do you feel this is what we reflect to outsiders? What are some of the ways we tarnish it?

You have been chosen to be a royal priest of a holy nation. What is your responsibility to the people "outside" of this holy nation, and what should you be doing differently to uphold the standards suggested in these scriptures?

NEXT STEPS

Read 1Peter 2:9-10 several times. Then ask God to reveal how he wants you to respond to His word.

Knowing the promise of John 14:12-14 and keeping our church and community in mind, what is your next step as a royal priesthood?