Small Group Leader Guide: Luther’s Five Favorite Verses

Week Five

The Priesthood of All Believers

1 Peter 2:9

*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.*

*15 minutes*  **Social Time**. Fellowship time is important! Plus people do it anyway.

*15 minutes*  **Opening**.

* Welcome everyone.
* Remind the group of the three parts of the PTA prayer model: Praise, Thank, Ask. Have the assigned person lead the opening prayer.
* **Check in.** Going around the room, remind each person in turn of what they said they were going to do at the end of the last session. Ask “How did that go?”
* Ask the following **Launching Questions**:
  + What’s the role of the pastor in a church?
  + What’s the role of the members?

*45 minutes*  **Discussion**.

* Ask for a volunteer to read the theme verse for this session, 1 Peter 2:9, which is at the top of their handouts.
* Watch the sermon from May 21. Participants make notes on their Small Group Handout.
* Discussion questions (see page 2-3)

*15 minutes* **Closing**.

* Ask everyone to share their answer to the Two Questions, “What has God been doing in your life in the past week?” and “What are you going to do about it?” Record the answers.
* Tell the group that this is the final session of this series. Thank them for their participation, and for blessing you with the opportunity to facilitate. Share any other personal words of gratitude that you wish. Close by saying that the group will resume in the fall, and those who wish to continue to be part of the group are welcome. Anyone who wants to find a different group for the fall can do that too.
* Have the assigned person lead the closing prayer.

Small Group Discussion Handout

Week Five

The Priesthood of All Believers

1 Peter 2:9

*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.*

1. Write down your thoughts and observations from the bible study and the sermon. Share them with the group for discussion.
2. Key words are those which, because of emphasis or repetition, stand out as being central to the message of the passage. What are some keywords or phrases in this passage?
3. Who are God’s chosen people?
4. In what ways do you feel that church is a “holy nation”, and why? In what ways do you feel church is not part of a “holy nation”, and why?
5. According to this verse, to whom does the church belong? What are the practical, day to day implications of that?

1. Priests interceded to God on behalf of others. According to this verse, you are a priest, and therefore have direct access to God. How can you take better advantage of that?
2. Luther wrote that all vocations are equal in the eyes of God. How does it change how you view your job/vocation to know that it is not just a job/vocation, but a calling that comes from God?
3. Pastors serve a role in the church, but are no more holy than anyone else. How does knowing this change how you view the role of the pastor? How does it change your role?
4. Who does this verse say should be in charge of your life? Are they? If not, what can you do to help the one who should be in charge actually be in charge?
5. Who is God calling you to “show the goodness of God”? How will you do that?
6. The Two Questions

This is what God has been doing in my life over the past week: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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This is what I’m going to do about it: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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