

**1 Peter :Confidence in the Gospel. Session 7 Read : 1 Peter 1: 17-21.**

**Icebreaker.**

Have you ever discovered an old treasure, perhaps in the attic, that proved to be really valuable? Or perhaps you had a family item which you believed to be worth a great deal, but proved to be almost worthless. Describe how you felt in either case.

**Discussion Questions.**

1. How does it feel to be judged unfairly? In what ways is it reassuring to know that God is an impartial judge? What difference does it make to our actions now if we know they will ultimately be judged by God? (see also 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 for Paul's take on this.)
2. What might an "empty way of life" look like? How have your priorities changed since you came to know Jesus? Look at Paul's experience in Philippians 3:7-8)
3. What price has been paid to set us free from captivity? What words would you use to describe your freedom in Christ?
4. Look at Exodus 12:5.  
What do you learn about the Passover lamb and why do you think Jesus is described in this way?
5. What are some of the ways in which the world claims we can know, and communicate with, God? Why, according to verse 21, is Jesus the only true way to the Father?

**Session Eight. Read : 1 Peter 2:4-5**

*Watch the online devotional which accompanies the passage.*

**Icebreaker**

What different badges do you wear or have you worn as a means of identification? What are the advantages of such badges?

**Discussion Questions.**

1. Look at the following verses. What do they tell you about the Temple and what do they suggest about us as God's "living Temple"?
  - Matthew 21:13
  - John 2:19
  - Matthew 26:61
  - 1 Corinthians 3:16,6:19
  - 2 Corinthians 6:16
2. A "living stone" sounds like a contradiction. What qualities does a stone have which we find in Jesus? Why is he a "living" stone? What does it say about us if we are now "living stones"?
3. What responses to Jesus are highlighted in verse 4? In what ways have you experienced these?
4. Look at 2 Chronicles 7:3 and compare Ephesians 2: 21-22.  
What happened when the Temple was dedicated? What might be the implications of this for us? ( look, for example, at 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:16)
5. What did the priests do in the Temple? In what ways do we continue to do this?

**Session 9. Read** : 1 Peter 2: 6-9

*Watch the online devotional which goes with this passage.*

**Icebreaker.**

Think about a situation in which you had to prove your identity. Why was it necessary and what proof did you give?

**Discussion Questions.**

1. Peter quotes from three Old Testament scriptures : Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14. Look at them in their original context and discuss how Peter applies them to Jesus.
2. What difference does it make to you in your Christian discipleship to know that:
  - You have been chosen by God?
  - You have been called as a priest?
  - You are commissioned to reflect the holiness of God?
  - You belong to God?
3. What, according to Ephesians 5:8, is our natural habitat? In what ways is becoming a Christian like moving from darkness to light?  
In what practical ways can we communicate this message to others?
4. What challenges might Peter's original readers have faced in living out their new identity?  
What challenges do you face? How might remembering your identity help you to face them?

**Session 10. Read** 1 Peter 2:10-12

*Watch the online devotional which goes with this passage.*

**Icebreaker.**

What is the most impressive building you have ever visited? What were your feelings as you walked inside?

**Discussion Questions.**

1. As "aliens and strangers", how might we live our lives differently from those around us?  
How can we best walk the tightrope of being in the world but not of it?
2. The words Peter uses in verse 2 suggest that temptation is like a military campaign launched against us. How can we best arm and defend ourselves? Look at the account of Jesus' temptations (Matthew 4:1-11). How does he deal with the attack?
3. How should we respond to false accusations made against us?
4. What might be some examples of good deeds that we can practice which bring glory to God?
5. How should the knowledge that God is coming back to survey His world affect the way we live now?

**To Think About.**

"While our "audience may not be spellbound in silent wonder, nor erupting with wild applause as we go about our daily lives, we are called to live a Jesus-shaped life in full view of our employees and our employers, our colleagues and our customers, our families and our friends."  
Joe Warton.

**Pray** for one another, specifically for those frontline situations in which you need God's help to live confidently for Him.