

STUDY QUESTIONS—Leader's Guide

Scripture Reading: Exodus 19:3-8
I Peter 2:9

Leaders: *This week we are challenging one another to re-imagining our faith communities. Are we any different from the world around us? Do our neighbors know that there is anything different about us? How can the church, Genesis, and our Acts 2 Communities better proclaim the praises of God?*

Getting Started

What is something that you love talking about?

Why is it that talking about this topic is so exciting? What makes you so comfortable and confident talking about it?

Digging Deeper

In Exodus 19:3-8, God has decided to make an agreement with His people. Just as the kings would do with their nation during this time period, God is telling the people what He will do for them as their king if they obey His requests. According to this passage, what does God expect from them? What does He promise will result?

God expects them to obey Him fully and to keep His covenant. As a result, Israel will be His holy nation, a treasured possession. Consider what it would mean to be the "treasured position" of the God of the universe?

Now read I Peter 2:9. In this passage, Peter transfers the titles of Israel to the new testament church. According to this verse, why has God set the church apart as His chosen people?

The church is to "declare the praises" of God. Help the group understand that the church here is understood as the body of Christ or many believers together. The church as a corporate unity is the church, rather than each Christian being such. We often focus on individuals relating to God, where in this passage, Peter is conscious of people becoming part of a new corporate entity that relates to God.

Last week we read Romans 12:1-2 and discussed how our daily activities can be used as a daily act of worship, to proclaim the praises of God. How can the church declare the praises of God outside of Sunday morning gatherings?

How is the body of Christ actively proclaiming the work of God in the community? How is Genesis set apart from the rest of Santa Cruz County? How would the church look, practically, if we were living the way that Paul describes?

Application

As a faith community, God has called us to live out a corporate identity. As an Acts 2 Community, what is one way that you practice an authentic, communal identity?

Are you an open group? Are you actively inviting people?

Consider how your Acts 2 Community is declaring the praises of God to the world around you. How does your community live life differently from the world around you?

Is there anything you can do as an Acts 2 Community to proclaim God's praises in a non-threatening setting?

How is your group being the church throughout the week? This question is asking you to facilitate a discussion on how your group is living life together outside of the Sunday service and your weekly study time.