

I AM SET APART FOR GOD

WEEK 4

When you hear the word "holy," what do you think of? I don't mean "holey" like your old socks where your big toe sticks through. I don't mean "wholly" like how you'd want to eat a whole deep-dish pepperoni pizza! But I mean "holy" like the Bible talks about. "Holy" simply means set apart for God. It's a very important word. For example, the Holy Spirit is the indwelling Spirit of God here with us...set apart for God's purposes and our good. Holy matrimony is another word for marriage that means a relationship set apart to honor and follow God as husband and wife.

Whenever the word holy is used, it matters a great deal. In the memory verse today, found in 1 Peter 2:9, Peter writes a declaration of who the followers of Jesus are. He gives us a list that we can always return to when we forget who God sees when He looks at us. Peter calls those of us who believe in Jesus a chosen race, meaning God chooses to bless us because we have placed our faith and trust in Him. We are called a royal priesthood. Priests in the Old Testament were set apart to serve the church, be in the presence of God, offer sacrifices to God, and be an advocate (or support) for the people of God. He was the connection to God on earth. But when Jesus came, all that changed. See, Jesus is our High Priest, who forever connects us with God the Father. Because of Jesus, we can access God anytime and anyplace. You could even pray to Him right now and He'd hear you and delight in you. So, when Peter calls us a royal priesthood, we are now given free access to our Heavenly Father.

Peter also calls us a holy nation. There's that word "holy" again! Christians are a nation set apart for God. But wait...does that mean you and I are holy? Yes! How does it make you feel to know that you are set apart by God for a special purpose? But what is that purpose? Our verse shows us. We are a people of God's own possession (meaning we belong to Him) so we can proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. When we are saved by Jesus, all the darkness of our sin and shame are replaced with the marvelous light of Christ! Our purpose is to tell others of what God has done for us! So, this week, read 1 Peter 2:9 every day and remember who God says you are. Thank Him for setting you apart to be holy, to be chosen, to belong. God loves you so much and He always will.

MEMORIZE

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

FAMILY

Being holy means reflecting God in your life instead of the world. Talk about ways your family is intentionally different than the world around you. Do others see Jesus when they see you?

SHARE

The Sabbath is a special day we set apart for God. Invite someone to church next week and then take them to lunch to ask what they thought!

CHALLENGE

The challenge this week is simple. Do or say something this week that shows the world around you that you are different. You belong to Jesus, so reflect His marvelous light!