

encouragement, prayer, giving and a multitude of other means. Can you see yourself as a priest among priests serving God by serving His people?

Saturday, 2/28/09 – Read 1 Peter 2:4-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: We are a “holy nation”. In one sense of the word we as a community have a higher loyalty to God than to the United States. We are citizens of both realms but the community of the holy nation has spiritual obligations that the United States does not have. Thus we have obligations both to our church community but also to our local community. How do you see yourself serving both these communities?

Sunday, 3/1/09 – Read 1 Peter 2:4-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: We are “God’s own people”. Translators have a hard time with this passage. It has the idea of people possessed by God i.e. owned by God. But the ultimate idea here is that our purpose as God’s possessed people i.e. as His community whether we use the picture of nation, priesthood, chosen or whatever, a major purpose for us is that we are “called” out of darkness into His marvelous light in order that we proclaim the mighty works of God. We do this regularly in community when we worship together. How can we do that in our weekday life?

My Faith Journal, February 22, 2009
“We are called to Community”

This week we are concentrating on community. Our western culture is so individualistic that it is quite difficult to think in terms of the community. But that is exactly what the church is. The Greek term really means “assembly” or a “group of called out people”. In I Peter 2:4-9, Peter uses 7 analogies to describe the community known to us as the church.

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.

Resistance

Monday, 2/23/09 – Read 1 Peter 2:4-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: According to I Peter 2:5 like living stones we are to be built into a spiritual building. What does this picture tell you about the community we call the church. How you function in relationship with our community? Some people function well in the kitchen, some function well at the door in welcoming people. We all have some function that goes into building our community. How do you see yourself functioning in our community?

Tuesday, 2/24/09 – Read 1 Peter 2:4-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: This spiritual building is for a holy priesthood. This is not a reference to the Pastor but to the whole community. We function as priests. The Protestant church has long stood for the priesthood of all believers and that no one stands between us and God. And note that it says “holy” priesthood. We are separated apart for the service of God. And we serve God best by serving his people and not just the church community but the entire community of people. How does concept change how we serve other people?

Wednesday, 2/25/09 – Read 1 Peter 2:4-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The purpose of this holy priesthood is to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. This is not like the priesthood of the Hebrew scriptures who offered animal and meal sacrifices. Our sacrifices are “spiritual” meaning we are led by the Spirit to work in God’s world to accomplish his purposes. All work is spiritual if we do it as priests to God. Thus handing out food to those who need it as well as teaching in Sunday school or working with the youth are all “spiritual sacrifices” and when done in this manner are acceptable to God. What are your “spiritual sacrifices” this week?

Thursday, 2/26/09 – Read 1 Peter 2:4-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: According to I Peter 2:9 we are a “chosen race”, I would prefer to translate this as a “select kind” i.e. we are selected by God because of our trust in Him. But that means that everyone who trusts in Him is “select” or chosen. God has chosen us as community, we respond by choosing God and working in community for his purposes. How does being “chosen” affect your attitude as you serve others in community?

Friday, 2/27/09 – Read 1 Peter 2:4-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: We are a “royal priesthood”. Again Peter emphasizes the priesthood of all believers. No one has any better access to God than any other person. We are together that priesthood meant to worship God in community. The clergy do not have any more “in” with God than the so called “laity”. And everyone of us in community serve as priests to those about us in the church through