



st. mary's
MAIDENHEAD

Discipleship Course

1. Being God's people today

Term 3: Being God's people today

The Big idea

When someone turns to Jesus Christ, they are not only forgiven and given a personal relationship with God, they are also brought to be a part of 'the people of God'. It's both a wonderful privilege, and a challenging responsibility. As we introduce this whole term, this week we will overview what the Bible says about being God's people before we delve in more over the rest of term.

1 Peter 2:9-12 (p. 1218)

1. God rescues a people, not just individuals

a. God rescues us into a new family (v10)

b. God rescues us because of his mercy (v10)

2. What does being of God's people involve?

“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Exodus 19:4-6

a. A chosen people

b. A royal priesthood

c. A holy nation

- ... *the same as God (1 Peter 1:15-16)*

- ... *different to the world (1 Peter 1:14)*

Small Groups

➤ Have a look at the triangle diagram for the term

- Which of the three sides of the triangle most interests you?
- Are there any individual sessions you're particularly looking forward to?
- Are there any issues/questions related to these sessions you'd like cover this term?

➤ Read Colossians 3:1-14

Paul has just explained that those trusting Jesus 'have been raised with Christ' (3:1). This brand new life that Jesus has given Christians will continue to eternal life, but will also make big differences in the here and now. That's what these verses unpack. They provide a great overview of the change involved in becoming part of God's people. From v5, Paul imagines two sets of clothing: an old set standing for our lives before following Jesus (v5-8), and a new set standing for the new lives Jesus has given us (v9-14).

1. What marks out the 'old self'? (v5, v8)
2. What impact will these things have on our relationships?
3. In what kind of situations/relationships might these characteristics show up in our own lives?
4. In v5 Paul tells us to put these things to death. What will that mean?
5. What marks out the 'new self'? (v9-14)
6. Often people have a 'just try harder' approach to living as God's people. How is v10 different from that?
7. If Christians lived out v11, what would that look like in church? In our friendships?
8. Work through the 'new clothing' in v12-14 and ask- 'what kind of actions and words will make these a reality in our life together as God's people?'
9. Having compared 'old' and 'new', how should God's people be different from the world? How might that be exciting/challenging?

Taking it further in the week

Reflect

- Is there anything this term you'd particularly like to become clearer on in relation to being part of God's people?
- Is there any area of your life you'd like to 'putt off' the old self, and 'put on' the new self?

Read

We considered **1 Peter 2:9-12** in the talk this week. Read it again now.

- What do we learn about our 'identity' as God's people?
- What do we learn about our 'task' as God's people?
- Anything in these verses that
 - Excites you?
 - Worries you?
 - Confuses you?

Respond

- Thank God that all those who are following Jesus are part of his special people.
- Pray for the coming term- that you would be able to come along regularly, and have a soft-heart to understand and be changed by all we'll be thinking about.

Prayer points