

## **LIFE Group Leader Handout**

January 17, 2016

**House Rules**—...you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15 ESV)

Pastor Mike O'Connor

### **Scripture—1 Peter 2:1-12**

[2:1] So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. [2] Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—[3] if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

[4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, [5] you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. [6] For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

[7] So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

[8] and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

[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.

[10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

[11] Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

### **Main Idea—The Redeemed are Part of God's Household; Obey House Rules**

#### **Our new identity:**

chosen race—because of His love for us

royal priesthood—pontifex means “bridge builder”

holy nation—different from others because we are like God

people for God's own possession—the fact that God owns us makes us valuable

**The “why”**--that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (v.9)

#### **Living from our new identity:**

- change your diet (vs. 1-3)
- take your place (vs. 4-6)
- rep the King (vs. 11-12)

#### **Application—**

- What part of our new identity in Christ is most meaningful to you? Which one do you have the hardest time believing and receiving?
- In what areas did God bring conviction upon you as He shares His plan and purposes for His redeemed people?

**ALTERNATIVE TOPICS FOR GROUP MEETINGS  
(TO BE USED IF YOUR GROUP NEEDS AN OCCASIONAL  
CHANGE FROM THE USUAL)**

**Write a mission/vision statement for your group.** Work on your group agreement (Don't have one? I can give you a copy). Evaluate if you are successful in reaching up, reaching in, reaching out. Is mutual ministry occurring? Is Jesus present and honored in your meetings? Are you exercising the Fruits of the Spirit?

**Take a few weeks of meeting to have everyone share their testimony.** This will build confidence in sharing the gospel with the lost. Also, your group members will get to know each other better. Have each person share something about their daily personal quiet time. What they do and what God has been speaking to them about. This will provide some accountability and encourage others to spend time daily with the Lord.

**Spend a whole evening in worship.**

**Spend a whole evening in prayer.** Focus on specific topics such as missionaries, the salvation of loved ones, or political/moral issues.

**Have an evening of icebreakers.** Use an online resource or make up your own. It's a great way to have some fun and get to know each other better.

**If you don't have kids at your meetings regularly, have a family evening.** Invite kids to a special group night. Sing worship songs they know, perhaps with actions or percussion instruments. Read a Bible story that the kids are familiar with and discuss how it applies to them. Have the children share prayer requests and have everyone pray together.

**Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory.** Spend time discussing ways each group member can use their gift within the group and outside the group. Have group members encourage each other by sharing ways they have seen gifts used. (There are online Spiritual Gifts inventories, or I can provide you with the written one ICC uses.)

**Learn about Love Languages.** Watch the video, take the profile test, discuss individual results. How does this help group members to understand themselves and others?

**Have each member share their Life Verse.** If they've never thought about that, maybe spend some time discovering that together. How does their Life Verse affect them? Encourage them? Challenge them?

I've adapted this from an old Cell Group Resource book I inherited from my Group Coordinator predecessors. I think these are fun and helpful ways to jump start renewed passion within your group; to help group members reflect on their walk so far and grow in their knowledge of God, themselves and others. I'd be happy to help if you need some additional resources or suggestion. --Cindy