

PERSEVERE WITH PETER

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting THEME: Unashamed of your identity

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read I Peter 2 : 4 - 10

20.00 – 20.10 Start Let everyone complete this sentence: my identity should (not) depend on... Thereafter ask yourselves to what extent your identity possibly depends on what you mentioned.

20.10 – 20.15 Pray.

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read I Peter 2 : 4 – 10

Look again at 2:4-5

Those who became believers in Jesus Christ had no religious buildings, no religious officials like priests, no sacrifices like other religions had. They had just their faith in Jesus Christ and each other as brothers and sisters.

- Can you imagine how this felt for them?
- What strikes you in these verses?

Look again at 2:6-8

For (verse 6), so (verse 7).

- How does verse 6 cohere with the preceding verses?
- What is the conclusion that is drawn in verse 7?
- 'Destined to' – why are these words added?
- What can we learn from these verses?

Look again at 2:9-10

Remember how the letter began. 'To those who are elect exiles...' These Christians were looked upon as 'nobodies' by their contemporaries. But Peter wants them to know that from God's perspective they are his elect, foreknown, set-apart people to be ransomed by the blood of his Son and to be obedient. By his mercy they were born again to a living hope. Here everything comes back again. Though they are treated as worthless, reviled and laughed at, they must be aware that they are God's precious people and should be unashamed of the Gospel and of themselves and of their holy lives. They should continue to live with and for Him.

- How does, what we find in these verses, cohere with the Old Testament? (you might look at Exodus 19:5-6)
- If you are a Christian now, was there a time when you were not? Did becoming a Christian involve difficulties for you?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

For a Christian his/her God-given identity should be the most important treasure in life. How are you (at times) threatened to pay more importance to other things that offer you identity?

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.