

LG Winter Week 5 - 2/7/21 Leader Guide

"Get Growing" message series - Week 6

Getting to Know You

- 1.) Where would you place yourself on a scale of one to ten, from really struggling or being depressed to doing great and thriving? **With the main point from Sunday being for us to check ourselves and see how we are really doing, we need to start there.**
- 2.) What are some things that have been difficult for you and caused you to struggle during this season? What are some things that have been great and helpful to you during this season? **This week is really built for us to take inventory and see how we are doing. To really do that we have to check to see what is influencing us in both directions.**
- 3.) When things are not going well for you personally and you know you are not in a good place, what do you do? How do you know when it is beyond you and you need to reach out to others for help? What holds you back from reaching out sooner? **Checking in on the process of how we handle or get through the hard times and also trying to ask at what point is it time to reach out knowing that most people either do not, or they wait too long and make it harder than it had to be. With that in mind we want to ask why we wait and what makes it hard to reach out.**

Into the Bible

- 4.) Read 1 Peter 2:5. In what ways do you see yourself being built by God into "a spiritual house"? How do you see the Church as a whole being built into "a spiritual house"? **Even though a lot of people are in the midst of hard times, the truth is that is where growth most often comes from, so we want to look at the positive and highlight some areas where we see God growing us.**
- 5.) What did Peter mean in the second half of verse 5 where he said that we are supposed to be developing into "a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"? How are you doing that in your life? **Sometimes this is a passage that sounds kinda cool but also feels a little outdated with the reference to offering sacrifices, so we want to ask what it means for us today to offer spiritual sacrifices that are pleasing to God. Then we want to ask how we do that as Christians. We also want to highlight the fact that our obedience and our heart being for God and our submission to Him as our Lord is something that pleases God--meaning that God delights in us as we align to Him.**
- 6.) Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. How does remembering the fact that *you* are chosen by God and precious to Him impact your life? **This is so key for any follower. If we believe God really cares for us individually and everything is under his control, then really what is there to fear? The key, however, is reminding ourselves and training ourselves to live in that truth.**

Application

7.) This week, begin a gratitude journal. Take some time every day to just write down one positive thing about the day for which you are thankful, and thank God for it. Going forward then, assess yourself and see if that would be a helpful habit for you to continue. **No matter where you are in life, a gratitude journal can be a very positive and helpful habit to develop, so we want people to at least give it a shot and see if it makes a difference.**

8.) What is one thing you can do this week that you think will either help you develop into “a holy priesthood” or will be “a spiritual sacrifice” that is acceptable to God through Christ? **Trying to find very tangible ways to live Scripture out and maybe even make a plan to make it happen.**

9.) If during Sunday’s message or this week’s discussion you have realized that you need to reach out and ask for help, what is your next step and when will you take it? **Hopefully if someone needs to reach out this is a nudge that gets them to take that step and do so.**