

Growth Group Study : 24 March 2019

Theme: Holy Nation

Bible: Exodus 19:1-6 1 Peter 2:1-10

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Je Cheol Cook

Think back to the previous sermons and identify what it means to you to come out of darkness into the light of God?

Read the paragraph. Talk with you pairs what you felt.

About two months ago, I read a news article about a story in which a church in Holland saved a refugee family from Armenia, who were sheltering in a local church. The newspaper says that every day the church held services continually for 96 days. Over 1000 ministers from all over the countries had led the services to save the family. The father of the family was the leader of the opposition of Armenia and fought for the freedom of the country. Without the prayers and assistance of the church, the family would have been deported back to Armenia and imprisoned. According to the law in Holland, policeman is not allowed to arrest anyone during a church service. A minister, who was leading one of the services, said, "this is just the beginning. I hope that the church will help to support the minority in order to influence our society at this time."

What does this remind you of the role of the church?

Why do we worship God in the church?

What does holy mean in the bible?

What does nation mean in the bible?

Holy is ἅγιος(hagios) in Greek. It originally means different (unlike) or other ("otherness"). For the believer, holy also means "likeness of (one's) nature with the Lord" because "it is different from the world." The fundamental (core) meaning of (hágios) is "different" – thus a temple in the 1st century was hagios ("holy") because it was different from other buildings. In the New Testament, hágios ("holy") has the "technical" meaning "different from the world" because it means "like the Lord." Further, it implies something "set apart" and therefore "different (distinguished/distinct)" – i.e. "other," because special to the Lord.

Nation is ἔθνος(ethnos) in Greek. It means nation and the people of God. They are a new spiritual nation which is based neither on ethnical identity nor geographical boundaries but rather on believing in their heavenly King, Jesus Christ, who is true King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16).

Based on this, what does holy nation mean?

What does the idea of nation mean for us as people from different backgrounds?

About two weeks ago, a mass shooting took place at two Christchurch mosques. How did this affect you when this happened? Share how believers of God could comfort those who lost their family and how, as a holy nation, we could help these people?

Our church is made up of people of different backgrounds and ethnic groups. Can you come up with five things we could unite the people in our church?

Read the paragraph.

Here is a good illustration of the problem. There were a man born blind and another who could not walk properly. They encountered a very difficult road. The blind man said, "Can you help me to pass through the road, because I cannot see." The handicapped man answered, "I am sorry, I can't, because I can't walk properly. If you carry me on your back, I can help you, because I am able to see. My eyes could be your eyes and your foot could be my foot." The blind man carried the other man on his back and passed through the difficult road.

Talk with your pairs what you learned and how we could serve one another as believers of Christ.

Read 1 Peter 1:11. Believers of Christ in the time of Peter suffered, but what gave them hope?

Can you remember from the sermon, what are the three themes in the book of Peter?

Read the paragraph and talk with your pairs why we still need hope.

In the Second World War, a man and his son were put in a concentration camp in Europe. It was a very cold winter in 1944. One night, the man took his son to the dark corner of the camp. He had a light which was used with butter, because there was no candle. He said to his son, "Man can live three weeks without food and three days without water. But man cannot survive one day without hope. This light which shines in the darkness tonight is like God's hope. Believers of God need to have hope that God is with them and care for them." The son nodded his head.

Believers of God are continually to keep this in mind that God is with us and cares for us living in this world. Consider what you can do as believers of God and part of holy nation?

Firstly, we are told believers are to obey God and keep his covenant. Read Exodus 19:5-6. What does this mean?

Think of ways we can follow God?

Think of ways how we can our faith in God be grown?

Secondly, how can we grow our fellowship?

Read Acts 2:42-47. Talk with your pairs what does this mean and why do we need fellowship in our church?

How can we do fellowship better at our church?

Thirdly, we are told to preach the gospel in season and out of season. Read Matthew 28:18-20.. what does this mean?

What can you do to support mission and evangelism as believers of Christ.

In summary, tell the group what you personally have learned through the bible study and what you can do better as believers of Christ?