

## **Growth Group Study: 31 March 2019**

**Theme:** Out of darkness - Proclaiming the praises of God

Bible (NIRV): Psalm 150:1-6, 1 Peter 2:9-10

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Je Cheol Cook

Based on the following passage. What is your Christian identity?

Ephesians 2:3 says, "we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love, God made us alive with Christ."

Share with each other what we have learned for the past three weeks. What really impacted you among those learnings?

### **First, we are a chosen people.**

What do you understand by this phrase?

The word choose comes from the Greek word, ἐκλεκτόν(ekleton) means choose something or someone with deep conviction as a deeply personal choice. On the basis of this, describe why God chose his people?

Read Romans 8:30, "God predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified (NIV)." What does this mean?

### **Second, we are told to be a royal priesthood.**

What does this mean?

As a child of the King, God, what do you see as your royal family?

### **Third, we are a holy nation.**

What do you understand by this phrase?

Identify three main themes in the sermon note?

Using these themes, discuss how believers of Christ would do the work for God in this world?

Apostle Paul suffered from many difficulties while working for Christ and thought about giving up his ministries many times. Yet he succeed where did he find supports in this time?

Think of someone, who really helps you to survive in this world?

Are they believers of God or non-believers?

Talk with your pairs about your own experiences.

Read 1 Peter 2:9, "you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness."

What does this mean to you?

How do you yourself praise God as a believer of God?

### **Believers are told to praise God.**

Read Psalm 150 :6, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." What this sentence mean to you?

The praise comes from the Greek word, ἀρετὰς(aretas). It means, “wonderful deeds, praises, excellence, worthiness of approval and praise.”

How do you think believers are to praise God?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31, “whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

In what way live and work for the glory of God?

Talk with your pairs about your experiences.

**First, believers are told to serve God and his people.**

Read Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

How did Jesus illustrate this idea of service to his people?

Serve comes from the Greek, διακονῆσαι(diakonēsai). It means “wait at table (particularly of a slave who waits on guest) to serve.” Some English words such as deacon, minister, servant originate from this word. The word serve originally meant that a master serves his slaves.

On the basis of this meaning of service, how do you think we are serving in our church?

Share with others about your own experiences.

**Second, believers are told to teach and preach the word of God.**

How do we do this?

Do you think which kinds of ministries are the most valuable in our church and why?

(e.g. sermons, care team, outreach, evangelism, worships, growth groups, prison, prayer, bible studies)

In what way, can we help non-believers or/and unchurched to come to our church and be a member?

If you have any experience and ideas, share with others.

For the past four weeks, we have learned about the series of “Out of darkness into light” based on 1 Peter 2:9-10. Can you explain what you have learned so far?

Can you explain what defines your identity in Christ?

Have you plans for the next step as a believer of Christ?

Finish by prayers.