

# Gathering Guide

for Communities and Friends

*The Insanity Loop (The Practice of Preaching)*

3/31/2019

## Where We Are In The Bible

We are now coming to the close of our series *The Insanity Loop*. The Scripture comes from the book of I Peter, which was written to the Christ-followers scattered throughout the world. This wonderful passage in Chapter 2:4 -12 inspires us with the truth that we have been chosen by God to be His people. This week we will consider how that impacts the way we live.

## Lean In

- The Christian faith has been passed down over the centuries by faithful people who practiced preaching - and the vast majority of them were not paid ministers! How did you hear about Jesus? It would be great if you could share in your group your story of your personal journey from hearing about Jesus to accepting Him as Lord.
- The Practice of Preaching sounds intimidating – yet the message of the sermon stressed the doctrine of the “Priesthood of all Believers”. Why can it be so intimidating to share our faith with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.? What do you think would be good ways to overcome our fears and inhibitions?
- Another way of preaching is with our actions. Many of us likely experience the temptation to remain in our “holy huddle” and just serve each other. What are the main obstacles we must overcome to better serve those outside the church?

## The Big Idea

Here at Friends Church we have a three-pronged strategy for spiritual growth - we Gather, we Grow, and we Go. When we Practice our Preaching we are taking seriously the call to Go. A well-rounded, growing Christian is sharing his or her faith on a daily basis by word and by deed. And when we see God work through us to reach others, we experience transformation in our own lives. We become more like Christ as we share our faith and serve the world around us.

## Where To?

- Read I Peter 2:4-10. Verse 5 says that we are to be offering spiritual sacrifices. What exactly are spiritual sacrifices? Consult Psalm 1:17, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 5:1-2, and Hebrews 13:15-16 as you consider this. How do these passages add to our understating of the Priesthood of All Believers?
- What is the significance of every Christian being part of a holy and royal priesthood (1:5, 9)? Verse 9 also says we have been given a special message. What is that message and in what ways can we best communicate this message to the dark world around us?
- In the 10th chapter of Mark we see a glimpse of how spiritual pride can warp how we view our faith, just as it did with James and John. Jesus corrects their thinking (vs 38-40) and then speaks to the whole group in verses 42-45. How does this response by Jesus help us form a proper view of how we should relate to this foreign world we live in?
- Donald Whitney was quoted in the message as saying “Evangelism is the natural overflow of the Christian life”. One great example of evangelization to non-Jewish people in the Bible is Acts 8:26-40. Read this passage and make a list of everything Philip did right. What can we learn from this example?

## Prayer Focus

Father, we praise you and thank you for the mercy shown to us even though we did not deserve it. Your grace continues to amaze us, and your love for us is overwhelming. Forgive us for hoarding this good news of the Gospel. Place on our hearts a burden for those who are lost and help us to be disciplined to reach out and share that life-changing message those who need to hear. Continue to pour out your mercies on us. Praise your name forever! Amen.

