

Declaring and Displaying the Gospel Together

Our Corporate Calling

1 Peter 2:9-12

God has chosen the church to be His instrument for declaring and displaying the power of His saving work to the world.

1. Who has God chosen us to be?
 - a. A _____ people
 - b. A _____ people
 - c. A _____ people
 - d. A _____ people

2. What has God chosen us to do?
 - a. To declare God's saving work

 - b. To display God's saving work

3. What is your part?

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READY

1. What are some important things that can only be accomplished by organized groups of people?
2. Can you think of any organized groups of people who are identified by their behavior?

SET & GO

Primary Text: 1 Peter 2:9–12

Set 1 **Read 1 Peter 2:9–12 aloud.** Answer the following questions:

What are the four terms or phrases that Peter uses to describe the church in verse 9?

What purpose has God given to the church(v 9)?

What does Peter say is waging war against our souls (v 11)?

In verse 12, what does Peter say has the potential to win over unbelievers?

Set 2 Peter lays the groundwork for how we are to live by first describing who God has made us to be. He intends for us to understand our glorious identity and to compare that with our former lowliness.

Go 2a Discuss the specific comparisons Peter makes in verse 10.

Go 2b Why is it so important that we know who we are in comparison to who we were? How does this help us to proclaim the praises of God's saving power?

Go 2c Our new identity is wrapped up in our connection to the church. Is your life significantly shaped by your connection with this treasured community or do you function more as an individual? What can you do to help yourself more enthusiastically identify with and connect to your church?

Set 3 **Briefly discuss:** In verse 9 Peter makes it clear that God has made us who we are for the very specific purpose of proclaiming His work of salvation (calling us from darkness to light). This must involve actually speaking the gospel not just displaying it.

Go 3a What happens when a tool gets used for jobs for which it was not designed? What has God designed you for? How are you cultivating opportunities to speak about God's saving power to unbelievers?

Go 3b We are to preach the gospel to each other as well as to unbelievers. How are you speaking the gospel to others at Cornerstone? To your immediate family? To unbelievers?

Set 4 **Briefly discuss:** In verses 11–12 Peter makes it clear that our lifestyle choices and behaviors are to display the gospel and that living consistently with the gospel is compelling evangelism. In this context, he exhorts us to do battle with our fleshly lusts literally by "putting them away."

Go 4a What are you doing to fight sin in your life? If you are willing, share what you struggle most with.

Go 4b How does disobedience in a believer's life distort the gospel for unbelievers?

Go 4c Do the unbelievers who know you see a difference in your life that would encourage them to faith? What are some things that you can work to change to better display the gospel with your life?

FINISH

1. Are you struggling with any sins that seem unbeatable? Who can you share this with for help?
2. The following are a few resources that may help you to better declare the gospel: Share Jesus Without Fear by William Fay, Evangelism by Mack Stiles, One to One Bible Reading by David Helm.