



Week 1 ReLaunch

Opening Prayer

God of New Beginnings, as we enter into a new chapter as a faith community, guide our steps, that we would be representatives of your love and peace.

Check-in

How was your week? Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?
What's your favorite summer activity?

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9 NLT

⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Discussion Questions

1. Peter is writing to the new gatherings of Christ-followers in the cities of what is modern day Turkey. He's trying to help them discover their identity, define who they are and what they are about.

How do you think they felt reading these words? Would they have been motivating? What do they say to you?

2. A few months ago, the people of The Connection began sharing what our faith community has meant to them. Through these stories a few things stood out, and one overarching theme rose

above the rest... so much so that we've made it our motto and printed it on t-shirts. Simply, The Connection is a place "where you belong."

We'll get into what exactly this means in a minute... but first, what does this phrase say to you? How have you felt it lived out, either in this community or in the family of God as a whole? Where have we failed at this? Where have we succeeded?

3. First, this motto applies to you. The Connection is a place where YOU belong. Peter tells the people of the churches to whom he is writing that they are "chosen...God's very own possession." He is saying that the family of Christ will always be a place of love and acceptance because of our identity as God's children.

What does it mean for you to "belong"? Where have you felt the most loved and accepted?

4. Also, this motto applies to others. The Connection is a place where OTHERS belong. Peter finishes this verse by saying, "as a result [of the belonging you've felt,] you can show others the goodness of God." Because we feel loved and accepted, we are called to show that same welcome and affirmation to others. And the world is in desperate need of this message. We are surrounded by people who live in a dark world, seeking this type of belonging, who don't know that there is a God out there who loves them unconditionally, just as they are. They need us to live out this motto. They need to hear this message.

How can we do this better? What ideas do you have for us living out this motto for the world around us? What can we do to let a hurting world know that there is a place they can belong?

Closing Prayers

Peter closes by saying that we are called out of darkness and into God's wonderful light. The unconditional love we feel when we find our home in God's family is this light. Let us commit to living out our calling to help a world living in darkness see this wonderful light.

Take some time to share prayer requests or celebrations. Have someone close in prayer.