

Exiled
Marked
Isaiah 44:1-5

TALK IT OVER

Parallel Scriptures

2 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:8-9

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- In high school did you have a group that you fit in with or belonged to? What kind of group was it, what made you feel like you belonged?
- What is something you did once to fit into a group? Was it worth it?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read Isaiah 44:1-5, what's one thing about the sermon text that you hope we will talk about as a group as it relates to the message last week?
- How do you think it gave Israel significance to be reminded of the spiritual reality they belonged to God?
- Read 1 Peter 2:9. Christian believers were dispersed throughout the region of Eastern Europe. What would it look like for you to proclaim his excellencies more courageously in your life?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- Do you need to be reminded of who you belong to sometimes? Why?
- What does it mean to you to be Marked by God? (You were marked with a new identity when you were baptized into His Name)
- If we don't live our lives Marked by God - what other things might pull you away from Him?
- Isaiah 44:3: The Spirit was poured out on Pentecost and upon you as a believer. How can you stir up the Spirit who lives in you?
- Does belonging to God put us in the minority? Is it sometimes hard for you to live counter cultural from how the rest of the world lives?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- In Deuteronomy 6:8, they bonded God's word to their hands and foreheads to remind them of who they belonged to. Is there something you can do to remind yourself who you belong to?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.