



GROUP GUIDE | MESSAGE BY JESSIE DAVIS

START

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

Do you remember a time when you were not chosen or picked for something you really were hoping for? If so, what was that experience like and what did you learn through it?

SHARE

This weekend, Jessie talked about the incredible fact that God chooses people. The God of the universe, who is completely self-reliant and all-powerful, living in perfect union among the Godhead, the Trinity, decides in His perfect plan to choose us. Imagine God delighting in choosing people!

Each of us can remember a time that we were not chosen. Maybe it was a promotion that passed us by, a team we didn't make, perhaps it was that relationship that you hoped would happen, but realized that the other person didn't feel the same way about you. There are moments we all have where we sit and reflect on our beds wondering if we are valuable or worth being pursued.

Given all this baggage most of us deal with about not being chosen, it is hard to believe when we DO get chosen, especially by God.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:4-10

*But you are a **chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

In T. R. Schreiner's commentary, *1,2 Peter, Jude* he describes the reason behind being chosen as a people:

As God formed Israel to praise him, now the church has been established to praise his wonders. God's ultimate purpose in everything he does is designed to bring him praise (Isa 43:7). The declaration of God's praises includes both worship and evangelism,

spreading the good news of God's saving wonders to all peoples. They proclaim God's praises for calling them "out of darkness into his wonderful light." This is a description of their conversion and employs the language of Genesis 1, where God utters the word and light becomes a reality (Gen 1:3–5), pushing back the darkness.

Jesus was familiar with being rejected. In 1 Peter we read that Jesus was rejected. What were some of the ways Jesus experienced rejection?

Even though men rejected him, God chose Jesus to be the "cornerstone" upon which the entire Church would be built. The difficulties and pain that Jesus experienced didn't change the fact that He was chosen. How can our feelings get in the way of believing that we are chosen by God?

GROW

Our feelings can often be misleading when it comes to our faith. If you are feeling down, that doesn't change the fact that you are chosen. If we don't feel capable of conquering our fears, that doesn't change the fact we are chosen. When our past failures whisper to us that we are inadequate, God speaks over the noise to remind us that we can do all things through Him. We need to put our faith in Jesus Christ and need to look at God's promises, not our ever-changing feelings.

Let's read Matthew 14:26-31

In this well-known story, Peter did something that was considered impossible. What made walking on the water possible for Peter?

Do you think Peter had some fears stepping out of the boat and into the storm?

What made Peter overcome his doubts and fears?

Why do you think Peter began to sink? Can you relate to Peter here?

MOVE

In this week's message, Jessie talked about who we are putting our belief in. Peter was not great because Peter was great. Peter was great because he understood Jesus was great. Jesus picked him. Period and end of story.

Peter did not put his belief in what he could do, but in what Jesus could do in and through his life. It is a completely different way to view the world. It is who we put our trust in that makes the difference. Do we trust in God to change us or do we try and attempt it ourselves? Do we look to our own abilities to make things happen or do we trust God to work in us to see God-sized things happen?

Let' read Matthew 16:16-20

According to Scripture, who revealed to Peter the identity of Jesus Christ?

Right after Peter realizes that Jesus is the one and only Messiah, he is immediately called by God to be a part of a mission greater than himself. What is that greater mission?

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you have been chosen and are called by God to be a part of building His unshakeable Kingdom. What do you feel that you are specifically called to do?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other, especially for the struggles that people might be facing today. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

TO GO.

John 21:17

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."