

Setting Direction.



Vision & Mission studies

ARPC Vision

Key verse: 1 Peter 2:9.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.



Big Idea: It is an increasing appreciation of God's mercy that motivates us to live with real zeal and passion for Jesus.

Kick Off

List the core components you think are essential for a Christian church to be effective in our world?

Our Vision Statement as a church is... "To be a vibrant and passionate Christ centred church community". How does your list fit within our Vision Statement?

STUDY

Read 1 Peter 2:1-12.

Peter is writing to scattered Christians who have experienced various forms of persecution, suffering and loss as a result of their faith. Such treatment can leave Christians disillusioned and doubting the goodness of God. Peter reminds these Christians of how Jesus was rejected by men but precious to God. He urges them to think bigger than earthly calamities and to keep living as Christians.

1. From vv1-3, 11, 12 what things are Christians to be battling against?

What fuels our ongoing battle to change?

What is the ultimate goal in living such radically different lives?

2. In verses 4, 5 Peter makes a strong link between the life and work of Jesus and the life and work of his followers.

What do you think it means for us to be... living stones and a holy priesthood?

What are our acceptable spiritual sacrifices? Cf Romans 12:1-2.

3. Verses 9 and 10 provide great encouragement to Christians under pressure...

How would the contrasts of v10 help struggling Christians to see a bigger picture?

In what situations should Christians stop doing what v9 says we are to be doing?

4. Opposition, ridicule and persecution are never easy to cope with. But looking at vv 4-6 what does Peter emphasise about the life and work of Jesus the living stone?

How does the cross reverse the world's notion of shame and honour? cf 1 Cor. 1:18-31.

In the light of the cross who will be really shamed and why, vv 7-8.

THINK AND APPLY

Back to our Vision Statement, for us to be a vibrant and passionate Christ centred church community we need encouragement to keep our eyes on Jesus. Then motivated by Jesus' mercy to us, we are to live by concurrently cutting out sin from our lives and declaring his praises to others.

Which is easier? Getting rid of your sin... or declaring the praises of Jesus to unbelievers?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read Matthew
13:31-33**