

Adult Study Guide for March 7, 2021
Series: *I am an Alien*; Message: *Chosen People*

Goal: To rebuild our sense of community in Christ and to serve our Savior together.

Key Verse: *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* – 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

1. Think back to your childhood and what it meant to be chosen to play on a sports team, to act in a play, to read your story in front of your school class, or something else. What impact did the act of being chosen (or not being chosen) have on the way you viewed yourself and the choices you made?

2. Review the story of Nicodemus in John 3:1-9. What does this story teach us about the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant – being chosen to be part of the people of God by birth or being chosen through a new birth (spiritual regeneration)? How does being chosen by God affect the way you view yourself and your place in the Church?

3. List the names that Peter uses in 1 Peter 1:1-2; 2:4-10 to describe those who are followers of Jesus Christ. Why were these inclusive names so important for the Gentile Christians to hear? (Acts 15) What do these names teach us about how to build a covenant community?

4. Read 1 Peter 2:4-5 What does the metaphor of “living stones” teach us about our purpose and how we fit together with other Christians? How does our effort to build community become part of our worship of God? What spiritual sacrifices are needed?

5. Read the key verse above and John 15:16-17. What is the purpose of being chosen? How is living in community with other Christians different than just forming another group of people? How will others know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ? (John 13:34-35)

6. Read 1 Peter 3:8-9. Our sense of community has been challenged through this past year by the physical distance between us and the differences in our reactions to the pandemic. What will it take to overcome our loss of community? How will the following choices help us to rebuild our unity – humility, honesty, listening, repentance, reconciliation, and forgiveness?