A Chosen People, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation

By Staci Geiger

What does this photo illustrate? When have you excluded someone, either on purpose or by accident?

Open with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide you through this study of God’s Word.

Consider the people you pray for in church. Are you connected to any of those people? Have you ever gone through the membership directory and listed the people you may not know? How can each of us ensure we are being welcoming to all people at church? How can we increase our connectivity to our sisters and brothers in Christ?

The photo above illustrates an idea of what it can mean to be set apart or holy. Note what the following references from the Old Testament say about what it means to be holy people of God.

Leviticus 20:26 You are to be _________ to me because I, the Lord, am _________, and I have _______ you ________ from the nations to be my _________.

Deuteronomy 7:6–9 The Lord your God has _________ you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his ________, his _________. (verse 6)

But it was because the Lord __________ you and __________ the ________ he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and __________ you from the land of ________. (verse 8)

He is the ________ God, keeping His ________ of __________ to a thousand generations of those who __________ Him and keep His commands. (verse 9b)

Deuteronomy 14:2 For you are a people ________ to the Lord your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has _______ you to be his _________.

2 Samuel 7:14–15 When he does wrong, I will _________ him with the ________ of ________, with ________ inflicted by _________. But my _________ will never be taken away from him. (verse 14b)

Ezekiel 37:27–28 My ________ place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make __________ ____________, when my _________ is among them forever.

How have God’s people reacted to His faithfulness? How are we often like the Israelites?

Ezekiel 20:5–24

Jeremiah 32:30–41

Psalm 4:2–3

How have we come to be called the holy people of God? What common theme do these verses have?

Galatians 3:3–7, 11–14, 26–29

Romans 2:28–29

1 Thessalonians 1:4–7

James 2:5

Ephesians 1:4–5

What does it mean for us to be holy people of God?
How do lives that reflect the heavenly Father’s grace and faithfulness look according to these passages?

- Romans 6:11–13
- Romans 12:1–2
- Romans 13:12–14
- 1 Corinthians 6:19–20
- Colossians 3:1–17
- 1 Thessalonians 4:4–5, 7–8
- Hebrews 12:10–11, 14–15
- 1 Peter 2:1
- 1 Peter 1:15–16
- 1 Peter 4:7–11

If time allows: Ephesians 5:1–21

Consider the following passages. With the Holy Spirit’s help, what precautions are we to follow?

- 1 John 2:15–17
- 1 Peter 4:2–4
- James 4:4
- 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; 7:1

Look back at the picture at the beginning of this study. How has the meaning of being set apart changed for you? While we are “in the world,” it may feel like we are left out. How is that statement descriptive of your life?

What good news is ours according to 1 Peter 2:9–12?

Closing: Sing “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” (LSB #655; LW #334; TLH #261).

Staci Geiger, a Young Woman’s Representative for the Sunshine Zone of the Texas District LWML, is vice president of her LWML society at St. Paul Lutheran Church in The Grove, Texas. She is an English teacher at Temple High School and is blessed to have a wonderful husband and four ridiculous canine children, all of whom she loves very much.

My fraternal twins, Erica and Marc, have been nearly inseparable, watching out and caring for each other all their lives. I came to realize their connection early on, the very first time one went somewhere without the other. When she was nine months old, I took Erica for a car ride, and she kept pointing to the empty car seat across from her. Even at such a young age, she noticed her playmate brother was missing.

Erica, as the big sister (she was six minutes older!), watched over Marc on the playground and told him the things she had heard me say, such as, “Don’t sit too close to the TV; it will hurt your eyes,” and “Pick up your toys before somebody trips over them.” To this day, Marc still refers to Erica as “My Sister!” He’ll often ask me, “Ma, have you talked to My Sister today?”

Marc was very quiet, while Erica was (and is!) very talkative and outgoing. We noticed that although Marc did not say much, he was indeed listening. The two of them developed an interesting interaction: Erica was a quick learner, but when she could not come up with an answer, Marc would quietly give the answer and then go on doing what he had been doing. Erica once told Marc that he could not make oatmeal; he responded, “I can read.”

Although they were both very capable children, we saw a need to spend a little more time with Marc at an early age. Erica was there to help too. For example, no matter how hard I tried, I simply could not teach Marc to tie his shoestrings because I am right-handed and he is a lefty. Erica taught him! She was the only girl on an all boys’ soccer team so that she could be on the same team as her brother.

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