

DISCUSSION: [Deuteronomy 7:6-8](#)

(Discuss the question cluster below - as much or as little as works for your group)

Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally

We're starting a sermon series called, "The Life of the Church." In it we'll focus on what it means to be the church through Henri Nouwen's picture of the Christian life as being like the Lord's Supper or "Communion": Chosen, Broken, Blessed, Given. We'll spend two weeks on each concept (Chosen, Broken, Blessed, Given) of that picture to help us know what it means to be the church and what the church is called to do in our world.

- I. This week, our passage helped us start to understand why God chooses his people (last week we covered the how/when). To get at the basis for why God chooses us, the sermon focused on two primary reasons in the text, a negative one (not because we were great) and a positive one (because of his love and promises). We also talked about what we do with that chosenness once we understand why God chooses us. The points were: 1) A negative reason we're chosen (v.7-8); 2) A positive reason (v.8); and 3) What we do with our chosenness (v.6). Let's discuss how these things impact our lives.
 - A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
 - B. The sermon helped us see (by referencing back to Gen. 15 and God's promises to Abraham), that God chooses us when we are 'the runt of the litter.' In what ways is it challenging to recognize God chooses us when we are spiritual 'runts' (a.k.a. - not great on our own) and in what ways is that actually freeing?
 - C. Do you struggle (even if you already believe) to feel like God really does want to choose you?
 1. What would it require of you to let him be the one who makes the choice about whether you are 'worthy' of his love?
 - D. What was challenging or helpful to you about recognizing that God's choosing the weak and small shows him to be generous in his choosing, not just 'fair'?
 1. Do you (even if only at times) feel like you want God to accept you or others because of what you do, not just because he is generous? What would your actions and habits say is true?
 - E. What would it look like for us (as individuals, as a group, as a church) to 'add a seat' for someone else to be chosen by grace, as the sermon challenged us to do?
 1. Who might I hope to see come to know God's chosenness that doesn't right now?
 2. What kind of mindsets or practices could we change or add in?
 3. What help would we need from God to do that?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New Adult Ed class: The world needs Hope. The Church needs Hope. You need Hope. NT Wright's exciting book on the resurrection and future hope — *Surprised by Hope* — is being offered in a 6-week video series about the sure hope of the resurrection.