

Essential Christianity
studies in what we believe and who we are as Christians

Study 5: Belonging (don't walk alone)

Discuss: Do you prefer to play individual sports, or team sports? Or maybe you're a musician, in which case do you prefer to play alone or in a band/orchestra? Why?

READ 1 Peter 2:4-10

1. Is there anything that strikes you or puzzles you? Discuss ...
2. Who is Peter calling "a holy priesthood" (v. 4), a "chosen race" (v. 9), a "holy nation" (v. 9)? Similar language is used in Exodus 19:1-6 – who was this speaking of? What is the relationship between the two groups of people?
3. What is it that makes a person a member of the people of God? On what foundation stone are the people of God built (verses 6-7, see Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22)?
4. Is it possible to have a relationship with Jesus but not be a part of his people, the church?

READ Hebrews 10:19-25

5. On what basis can we approach God with confidence?
6. Why is it so important not to neglect meeting together (v. 25)? Why do you think people do neglect this?
7. What should we do for each other when we meet together (vv. 23-25)? How can we do this? How can you benefit from this? How can you contribute to this?

Reflect on this ...

8. What should you *not* do as a result of reading this passage?
9. What should you *do* as a result of reading this passage?