

### Lesson 3 - City Gates - Leader Guide

*Leader – If you would like to reach out to your group ahead of time with some Scripture to read prior to attending, we recommend Genesis 18 and 1 Peter 2:9.*

Opening Discussion:

*Leader - Open with Discussion reviewing the past week and if/when/how you were able to priest within the environment to which God has called you.*

- Since we last gathered and talked about what it means to be in a marriage/partnership with God, how did that affect your perspective on the people and environments he has placed you in?
- Was embracing this perspective encouraging, enlightening, discouraging, difficult, helpful, etc.?
- Did you encounter any deserts this week? In your life or in the lives of those around you? Have you seen God or has God used you to bring shalom to chaos to those places?

Play Entire Video (0:00 - 29:35)

Video Discussion: *Leader - Hopefully participants are beginning to embrace and metabolize the calling of 1 Peter 2:9. The discussion this week will start with a review of our two jobs as priests: to show the world what God is like and to represent the people to God (or as Rod says in the video: stand in the gap) This week's discussion will lean into more of the practicalities of this. Hopefully participants will evaluate, brainstorm together, encourage each other and talk about some of the obstacles of this approach to life.*

- Look up and review 1 Peter 2:9
  - What does God call us to be?
  - What does this text say our job is?
  - Remind each other...what are the 2 jobs of a priest in the ancient world?
  - Brainstorm how you can show the world (where God has placed you) what God is like.
  - What does it mean to stand in the gap or to represent the people to God?
  - Who are you standing in the gap for?
  - What is wrong with the question, "where is God in all of this chaos?"
  - What are your fears or what prevents you from standing in the gap in chaotic and painful situations around you?
- Ask this question to the group, "How big are our gates?"
  - Do you think people know you as the kind of person that is filled with righteousness and justice? When the lives around you are in chaos do you think people know they can come to you?
  - Do people recognize your community as a people that has huge city gates?
  - Is Crossroads a place with big city gates and what would that look like?
  - What kinds of things can we do to make our city gates larger?