



March 1st
"Living Beyond Myself"
"What, Me A Priest?"

Big Idea: "Yes! You are a Priest!"

Old Testament priests were a special group of people who acted as go-betweens with God and His community of believers. In the New Testament, the priesthood still exists- it's just that every believer is a member! We are to do what priests do. We pray for each other, speak God's truth to each other, watch over, comfort and rejoice with each other. Unfortunately, the church can be pulled away from that model and rely on the "paid professionals" to do the ministry and everyone watches and evaluates them. It is time we make sure we return to the original plan where everyone of us is doing ministry. Yes! You are a Priest!

Open it: Share a business or industry that once had greatness and high ideas and have fallen. What is tragic about the decline?

Dig it: What comes to mind when you think of the role of a priest? What does a priest do?

1. Read I Peter 2:4-5 and verse 9. Who qualifies as a Priest? What is so radical about this redefinition?
2. Who do you know that has been a priest to you but without the "official collar?" How do they influence you? Do you see yourself as a priest?
3. What factors contribute to the drifting of every member being a priest to where only a few are doing the ministry?
4. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What is the missing if a church is not functioning according to the model described in this passage?

Reflect on it:

1. What is your understanding of how God has equipped you to contribute towards the greater good? How does God tend to work through you?
2. Go around the room and have group members share examples of they see God working in each person. Have each person hear where others see their strengths.
3. Now, discuss where these gifts can be used to serve people in the church and in our city.

Do it:

1. Pretend one day this week you are a priest. (This ought to be interesting!) What difference would that make in your conversations, your thoughts, your prayers and your actions? (Remember you are a Priest!)
2. Pray as a group for Heartlands to unleash all its priests to serve!

