

Players, Not Spectators

The Big Question:

- Who has access to God?

Break the Ice:

- Oreo Building
 - Show a video clip of an Oreo stacking contest:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iCE76rMIQ>
 - Ask four volunteers to compete in a thirty-second Oreo stacking contest.
 - Run the contest.
 - Say: *Today we will explore building, but with materials far more important than Oreo cookies.*
- Group Rock-Paper-Scissors Elimination
 - Announce three elimination rounds.
 - Round 1
 - You and all your participants simultaneously form one of the three shapes (rock, paper, scissors).
 - Let's say you play *rock*. The participants who played *scissors* lose and sit down. Those who played *paper* or *rock*, stay standing.
 - Round 2
 - Repeat with all those still standing.
 - Round 3
 - Repeat with those still standing after Round 2.
 - Say: *This is a negative example of building a spiritual house—competing against people so you can win. Peter, in the Bible, writes about how to build in the kingdom way. Let's see what Peter has to say.*

Supplies:

- 4 packages of Oreo cookies
- A large stone per participant
- A marker per participant
- A computer to play a video clip
- Background music
- Marshmallows (10 per group of 3)
- Toothpicks (15 per group of 3)
- Copies:
 - Look at the Book

Look at the Book:

- Before the meeting, ask a participant (with good reading and speaking abilities) to be prepared to read the italicized/bolded parts of the scripture (in the Look at the Book attachment).
- Say: *When Jesus came to earth, he changed things. And one big thing he changed was how the priesthood worked. Back in the Old Testament only certain chosen priests offered the sacrifices. These priests, who stood between*

God and people, were the only ones who could entered the most holy place in the temple. They took the prayer requests of the people to God.

- *But now, it's different. If you are a Christian, you are a priest. You are responsible to do priestly things. You go directly to God, you pray for others, you offer spiritual sacrifices. You are part of a holy priesthood. Let's see what else Peter says about you.*
- Distribute the handout: **Look at the Book** (attached).
- Read aloud the scripture (with the reader you selected reading the bolded/italicized parts).
- Ask participants to work in partners or small groups to do the Probing exercises.

Interact:

- Light-Speed Networking
 - Ask participants to stand in two lines facing each other.
 - Say: *Peter tells you—as priests, to declare the praises of God. What is one thing you like about God? And why? You have 30 seconds to tell each other. Go!*
 - Next, tell one line of participants to move one place to the left.
 - Say: *You have unique gifts that this youth group and the church need. What is something you like to do or that you are good at doing? You have 30 seconds. Go!*
 - Next, tell one line of participants to move one place to the left.
 - Continue until the time seems right to stop, using questions, such as the following:
 - *Peter tells us that Jesus is a stone that sometimes causes people to stumble. What is something about Jesus that is hard for you to understand? That confuses you?*
 - *Priests take care of people. Who is someone who can use your care?*
 - *Priests carry the word of God to people. What is something from the Bible you would like to tell others?*
 - *Priests call out the good in each other. What is something you like about someone in this youth group or in your church?*
 - *Priests welcome people to God. Who do you know who doesn't know God well?*
- Triad Building
 - (Prior to this meeting, build a simple structure using ten small marshmallows and 15 toothpicks. Keep this structure hidden in a corner under a drape until the right time.)
 - Say: *The priesthood of believers means that the preacher and the youth leader aren't the only ones responsible for leading in the church. All the priests make things happen. Priests work together to build the kingdom. Let's see how well you can work together.*

- Divide participants into groups of three:
 - Observer;
 - Go-Between;
 - Builder.
- Tell all the builders to collect the needed supplies—ten small marshmallows and 15 toothpicks—and go to a corner of the room or hallway where they can't see other builders.
- Show the observers the constructed structure under the drape.
- The observers whisper directions to their assigned go-betweens.
- The go-betweens then go and whisper the directions they heard to their assigned builders.
- The observers never see what the builders are doing and never talk to the builders. The go-betweens never see the original structure OR the structures the builders are making. Observers and builders never communicate.
- Otherwise, communication is not limited.
- When the time seems right, give the teams a two-minute warning.
- When the two minutes are over, builders should bring their structures into the large room.
- When all the structures are in place, unveil the original structure.
- Debrief—asking about what went well and what could have been improved in working together.

Pray:

- Give each participant a large stone and a marker.
- Ask participants to write their first names on their stones—just large enough to be read.
- Distribute the stones around the room.
- Play background music as the participants move silently around the room, doing the following exercises:
 - Pick up a stone.
 - Thank God that the person whose name they read is a living stone.
 - Think about a word that shows qualities of God in this person.
 - Write that word on the stone.
 - Repeat.
 - When the time is right, ask participants to find their own stones.
 - As participants hold their stones, read again to them the scripture for the lesson.