

GOSPEL IDENTITY

Discipleship Guide #7

TODAY'S GOAL

- To reinforce the student(s) of their identity in Christ so that they may be more equipped to guard against the competing identities in this world with the truth of who God says they are.

OPEN IN PRAYER

- Pray together and ask God to prepare your hearts to hear from His Word today.

DISCUSS WHAT IDENTITY IS

- Take this time to ask your student(s) questions about the identities and roles in their life and how they impact he/she for good or bad.
- Discuss: **What is identity?**
 - Answer: "the fact of being who or what a person or thing is". Simply put, our identity is the truth of who we are.
- Discuss: **What are some identities you have in this world?**
 - Example answers: son/daughter, student, friend, employee, athlete, club member, band member, etc.
- Discuss: **How do the previous listed identities impact your life – the way you think, live, or speak? These could be good or bad impacts.**
 - Example answers: being a son/daughter impacts who I have to submit to (my parents); being an athlete makes me feel like I need to uphold a reputation; etc.

INTRODUCE TO CONCEPT OF OUR IDENTITY AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

- Discuss: **What do you think it means to "belong" to Christ?** Discuss any initial thoughts on the students end. Don't expect them to give any kind of solid answer. This is simply to understand what they know so far. Explain how as Christians, we have taken up a new primary identity – that of a beloved child of God and joint heir with Christ. When this identity becomes more important than our other identities, we can be secure, confident, and free – not because of who we are, but because of who we belong to. Share John Piper's quote about our identity: "At the heart of what it means to be a Christian is to receive a new identity. In Jesus, we do not lose our true selves, but we become our true selves, only in him." (Article in Additional Resources).

UNDERSTAND WHO GOD SAYS WE ARE

- Pick one of the "key Scripture" below (or a section from the Hambrick article in Additional Resources) and ask the following "key questions" as you read through the Scriptures together. You may need to read each passage in smaller chunks in order to help them find the biblical insight in these verses.
- Key Questions:
 - **What would mark the life of a person that KNEW that their PRIMARY identity was who this passage says they are (or "in Christ")?**

- **How might who this passage says we are change us in the way you think, live, or speak?**
- **How might believing in the identities this passage speaks to free someone from a life of sin and or anxiety?**
- **What does this say to the person who “has it all together” in the world? Will that life last? Is that life important?**
- Key Scripture:
 - **Ephesians 1:3-12**
 - Key identity truths in passage: Blessed with every spiritual blessing; Predestined for Adoption to Him as child of God through Jesus; Redeemed / Forgiven / Lavished in Riches of Grace; Knowledge of the Mystery of His Will as set forth in Christ; Obtained Inheritance; Sealed with Holy Spirit as guarantee of Inheritance
 - **Romans 8**
 - Key identity truths in passage: Free from condemnation (v.1). Children of God, freed from slavery, joint heirs with Christ (v.12-17). Conforming to the image of Son, we are called, justified, will be glorified (v.29-30). Inseparable from Christ’s love, we are more than conquerors (v.31-39).

DISCUSS AREAS OF CHANGE WHEN CLINGING TO OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

- Take this time to ask questions in light of the previous discuss to help identify any areas of change for your student(s) or key biblical identities that, if they believed more about themselves, would bring about great change in their life. Make sure to ask follow up questions since you know your student(s) the best and ways they struggle to believe what God says is true about who they are as His children. IMPORTANT: One of the best ways you could go about this with your student(s) is meeting them on their level by answering the following questions yourself with them. Be open/honest/transparent about ways in which you struggle with your identity (yes, even you struggle in this area ☺) along with the student. This will make your time much more beneficial!
- Discuss: **Where do you find hope in these verses?**
- Discuss: **What is one lie you believe about yourself based off what social media, your friends, etc. have said about you?**
- Discuss: **Based on the Scriptures we just talked through, what is one thing God’s Word says about who you are that you struggle to believe and live in light of?**
- Discuss: **What would happen if you truly believed _____ (student’s answer to the prior question) to be true about who you are? How would that change the way you live and or view yourself?**

CONSIDER OPTIONAL HOMEWORK:

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!An5ireFvcG7q-EE1iByvIFk0UyXB>

CLOSE IN PRAYER

- Read **John 15:15-16** and thank God for adopting us and making us His “friends” with Christ.

We would love your feedback on this lesson! Click the link or scan the QR code.

<https://canyonshills.churchcenter.com/people/forms/334289>

