



Discipleship Study Questions

For use from 1/8/23-1/15/23



Identity Lies

In this series, we will tackle lies about our identity, and see how the truth of God's word sets us free to live our true identity in Christ!

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.



Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.



Week 1: "I am what I do".

Background: This series is about lies we believe about our identity, and the first one is one that is highly pervasive in American culture. Many people believe they are what they do. We can simply look at a recent study to see how much this lie has taken root: A 2018 paper on elite universities surveyed found that 95% of youth said that having a job or career they enjoy would be extremely or very important. This ranked higher than any other priority even helping people who are in need or getting married which came in at 47%. Many of us find identity in what we do.

Read: Ephesians 2:8-10

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God and His grace in this passage?

What comes first in this passage- being created in Christ Jesus, or doing the works God has created us for? Why does this matter in relation to identity?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Digging Deeper:

Take a moment to read and contemplate the invitation of Jesus to those who might find too much identity in their work:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt 11:28-30 NIV)

What would it look for you to receive this invitation? What burdens could you release?

Prayer: Lord, it's true that sometimes I find my identity in what I do. Help me to find my identity in knowing that by grace, through faith, I am called to be a new creation in Christ. Out of that place of identity, direct me into the good works you decided in advance for me to do, for Your glory. In Jesus name, Amen.