

Discipleship Study Questions

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



IDENTITY LIES

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

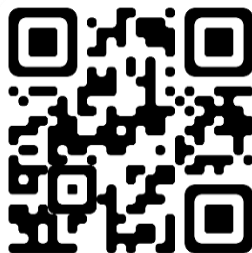
Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

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.

If you are an individual who would like to join a Discipleship Group, please scan the QR code below or email Emma King at eking@christtherock.org.



Small Group Guidelines

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware of 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

Use two different Bible translations if available.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. What do we learn about God and His grace in this passage?
2. 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?
3. What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?



DIGGING DEEPER:

1. 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)

2. 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.

Week 2: "I Am What People Say About Me"



BACKGROUND:

Social media has changed our emotional landscape. With a single comment, our reputation can be defined, defamed, or destroyed. We can also be tempted to believe the lie that popularity, approval from others, and acceptance by others have the power to define us. But praise be to God – His Word tells us a different story!



READ:

Matthew 3:16-17 and Romans 15:7
Use two different Bible translations if available.



QUESTIONS:

1. What do you learn about God and His grace in these passages?
2. What do you learn about trusting God in these passages?
3. What do you think God might be teaching you personally through these passages?
4. What action do you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to take based on what you've learned this week?



LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What is good (or bad) about guarding your reputation?
2. How does the lie "I am what people say about me" impact your behavior?
3. What do you want to be known for?
4. What is a lie you believe about yourself? How could you use these verses to replace that lie?

Prayer: Lord, please help me to care more about what you think of me than what others think of me. Help me to know your truth and apply it to my life and help me show grace, mercy, and love to anyone who may say unkind things to, or about me. Help me love everyone the way Jesus would. Amen.

Week 3: "I Am What I Feel"



BACKGROUND:

It doesn't take a deep analysis of our current cultural landscape to notice how often people make determinations about their identity based on what they think or feel. We can also see how fast this can bind someone in lies.



READ:

Colossians 3:1-17

Use two different Bible translations if available.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do you think Paul is trying to get the Colossians to understand?
3. What do you think God is teaching you personally?
4. What action do you think God might be leading you to take?



DIGGING DEEPER:

1. It is easy to point at how other people in our society are basing their identity on their feelings. But what are the ways you have done this in your own life?
2. What would it look like for you to let the peace of Christ rule in your heart?

Prayer: Father, it can be easy to fall into letting my own opinions form my identity. Deliver me from my the tyranny of my own thoughts and feelings. Help me die to myself, to all the false identities I try to create for myself. Let me instead be made alive in You, the One who gives me my true identity. In Jesus name, amen.

Week 4: "I Am What I Have"



BACKGROUND:

If we aren't careful, we can find a sense of identity based on the things we have or the money in our bank account. Especially as Americans, this is a particularly dangerous trap.



READ:

Matthew 6:19-34 and Colossians 2:10
Use two different Bible translations if available.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. What do you learn about God and our sense of security in these passages?
2. What do you learn about trusting God in these passages?
3. What do you think God might be teaching you personally through these passages?
4. What action do you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to take based on what you've learned this week?



DIGGING DEEPER:

1. How often have you found a sense of identity based on the stuff you own?
(An indication here might be saying things like "I'm so proud to be a homeowner" or "I am so thankful I'm not a poor person" or even something as small as "I'm such an Apple person" - all of these can be indications of finding identity in stuff)
2. What is a healthy way to approach the stuff we have?

Prayer: Father, help me to seek You first, and to find my security in You. May I not find identity in stuff, money or possessions. Bring me the peace and contentment that comes with knowing You. In Jesus name, amen.