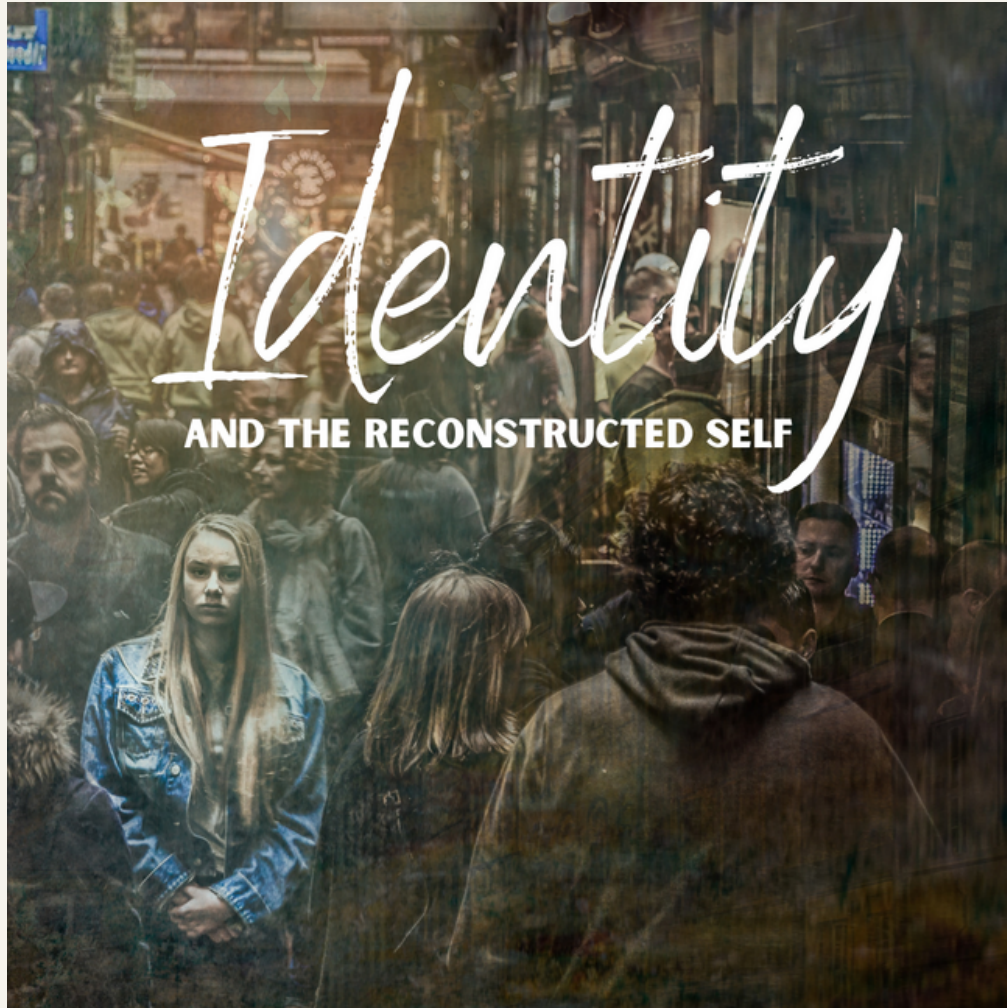


HOME GROUP STUDY

NOVEMBER 1, 2020



Week 2

THE RENEWED SELF

Getting Started

HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

Welcome to our Home Group companion study for the teaching series *IDENTITY AND THE RECONSTRUCTED SELF*. This series is about understanding our human identity from a biblical perspective.

This study is designed as a companion to Crosspoint's weekend teaching. It will help you to discuss and apply the content from the message. It also provides an option for you to dig deeper into the Word of God. You will find it uses the same core text from the sermon.

We encourage you to prayerfully read through this study before your meeting. Make changes as you see fit. You know your Home Group better than we do, so adjustments and alterations to the questions are inevitable. There is no perfect curriculum that perfectly matches every group's needs and journey.

We welcome and appreciate your feedback on this curriculum. We are a learning community and strive for continual improvement. We welcome change if it can help better serve others in their spiritual journeys. Be prepared to share your insights at the next Home Group leaders huddle, or email us.

A Basic Agenda

These are the basic elements in every Home Group meeting. You have the option of doing either the "message reflection" or the "deeper in the Word" sections. You likely won't have time to do both, especially if your group likes to share. Remember, the goal of your group is to build transformed lives, not to keep an agenda. Pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is doing. If you need to change things up, go for it.

ICEBREAKER	Take ten minutes to reconnect and get to know each other.
MESSAGE DISCUSSION	Discuss the teaching from the Sunday message. Hopefully you've all seen it!
DEEPER IN THE WORD	Dig into the core scripture passage from the weekend teaching.
REFLECTION	Talk about the meaning of the text and how it personally applies..
PRAYER	Set aside time to share needs and pray for group members.

Core Text

Galatians 3:23-29 (ESV)

23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.



I C E B R E A K E R

If your group doesn't know each other well, or if you've been apart for a while, an icebreaker is a great way to help them get reacquainted. Icebreakers also 'break the ice' and help people engage in conversation. When you share information about yourself with others, and they accept you for who you are, it helps to build trust. This trust leads to greater transparency and openness. If you want some great samples for icebreakers, check out this website: <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/leading-small-groups/small-group-icebreakers.html>

Message Discussion

QUESTIONS

The Eleven Identity Markers:

1. Race, Ethnicity, Nationality
2. Culture
3. Gender and Sexuality
4. Physical and Mental Capacity
5. Family of Origin
6. Age
7. Relationships
8. Occupation
9. Possessions
10. Religion
11. Personality

1. What three or four identity markers do you often reference to describe yourself? Are there any that you wish you could change?
2. How often do you think of yourself in terms of your new identity in Christ? What difference does this new identity make?
3. What are the implications of making your Christ-identity ultimate, above all other identity markers? How might this cause tension in our current cultural conversations about identity?
4. "The thing about identity markers is they too can become idols in our lives." Do you agree? If so, where might you be vulnerable to this possibility?
5. How can your group members help each other to renounce your idols and replace them with Christ?



deeper

in the word

1. The backdrop of Paul's letter to the Galatians is the issue of whether a person is saved by faith in Christ, or by keeping the Old Testament law. How does Paul describe the law's role in verses 23-24? What do you think he means by this?
2. Why do we no longer need this 'guardian' (vv. 25-26)? How does Jesus change this need?
3. Paul says that believers in Christ are "baptized into Christ" (v.27). He's not specifically referring to baptism but rather to what it represents - being fully-submerged (grk. baptizo). What do you think it means to be fully submerged in Christ (see Colossians 3:1-3)?
4. Those who are baptized into Christ are to "put on Christ" (v.27). What are the implications of this new identity for your life? How might it change your affections? Your behaviours?
5. What is the big idea that Paul is trying to convey in verse 28? What does this teach us about our unity? Our diversity?
6. What is the connection between "you are all sons of God, through faith" (v.26) and "heirs according to the promise" (v. 29)?

P R A Y E R

How you choose to set up your prayer time is up to your group. We hope that your group finds a way to track prayer requests and to celebrate when God answers prayer. We encourage you to not only pray for the sick, but to pray for the lost as well. We all have family members and friends who are far from God.

Often times, groups rush prayer because they run out of time. We recommend that you set an alarm so that you start praying thirty-minutes before your group ends. When your group members arrive, ask them what is the latest they can stay. Count backwards one-half-hour from that time.

