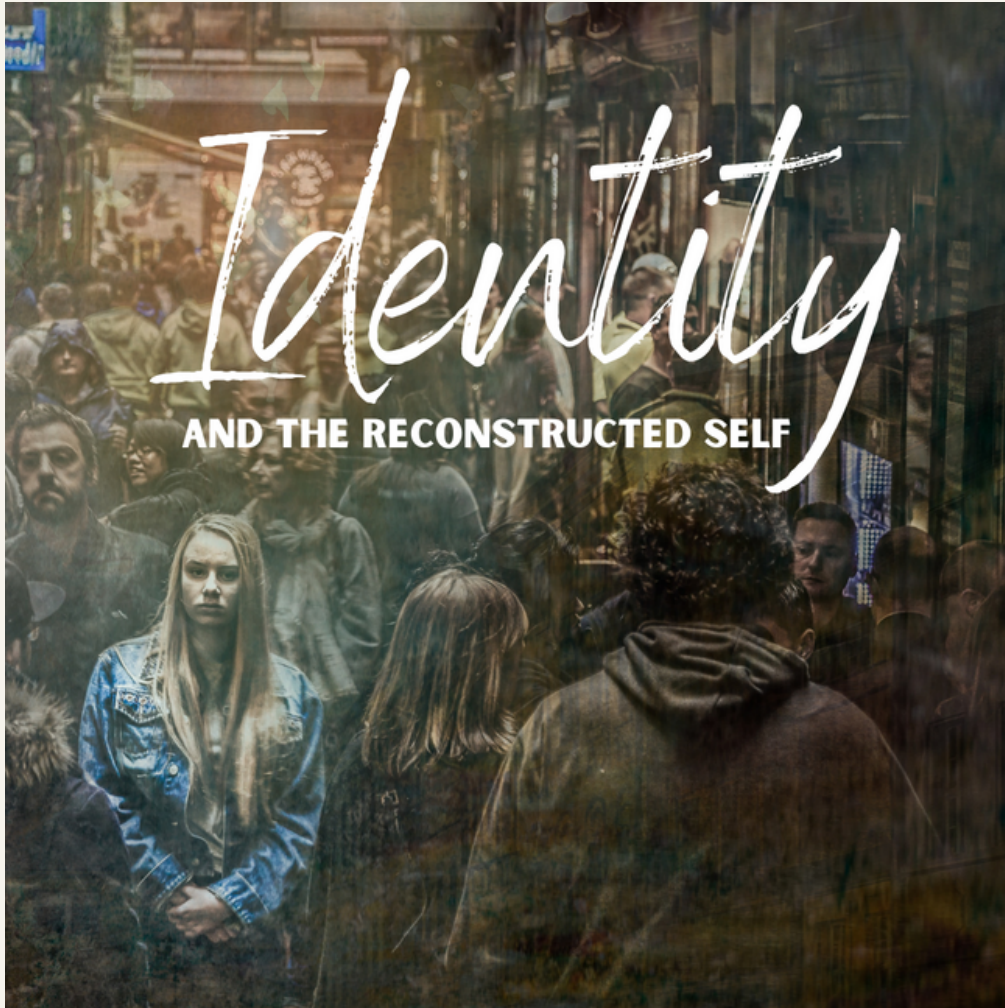


HOME GROUP STUDY

NOVEMBER 8, 2020



Week 3

THE COMPLETE 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

Matthew 23 (ESV)

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2
“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3
so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not
the works they do. For they preach, but do not
practice.

25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate,
but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.
26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the
cup and the plate, that the outside also may be
clean.27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees,
hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs,
which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full
of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So
you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but
within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.



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

You might have
some questions
of your own to ask!

1. How has the removal of a fixed point of reference (vertical self) moved us toward identity fragmentation?
2. To find meaning along the "horizontal plane," we need others to validate the identities that we send into the world. How is this longing for validation part of current culture wars and identity politics? Why does it feel like people are sometimes talking past each other on these issues (hint...point of reference and it starts with the letter 'V')?
3. Why do you think people put on masks?
4. "True Christ-centred, biblical community involves trusting others with myself." What do you think about this premise?
5. What would it look like for your Home Group to become a place where it's safe to take off your masks?



deeper

in the word

1. What do you think Jesus meant by "the scribes and Pharisees sit on Moses' seat" (v.2)? What does this teach us about honouring spiritual authority? What does he instruct his followers to do?
2. Jesus called the scribes and Pharisees "hypocrites" (v.25). The greek word means "to put on a mask." What does this teach us about the meaning of hypocrisy? How does this relate to the images of dirty cups and whitewashed tombs?
3. Why would Jesus call them "blind Pharisees" (v.26)! How might this spiritual blindness have come about?
4. What effect do you think this leadership hypocrisy had on the community?
5. What is the significance of Jesus saying, "FIRST clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean" (v.26).

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.

