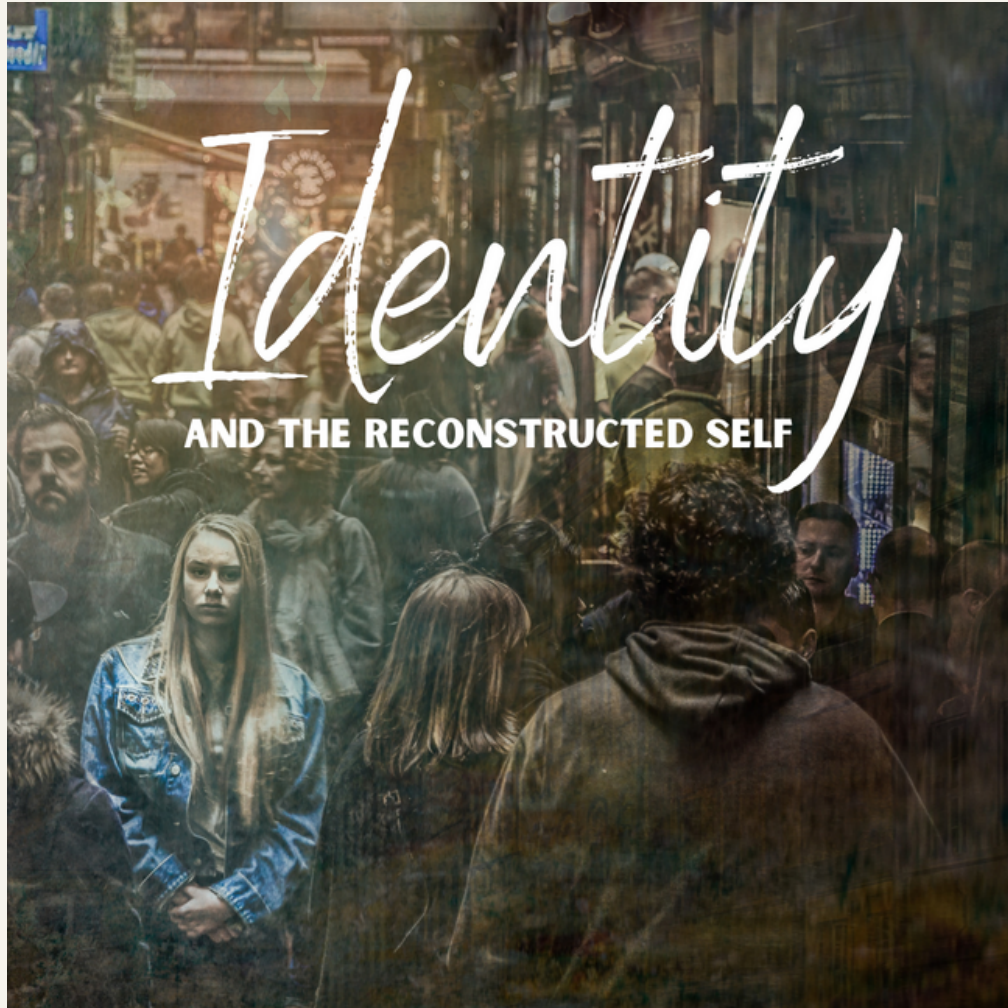


HOME GROUP STUDY

NOVEMBER 15, 2020



Week 4

THE LIBERATED 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

John 8:31-38 (ESV)

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. 38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”



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 questions of your own to ask.

1. During the message we learned about SOFT post-truth and HARD post-truth leading to a culture of confusion. What examples of post-truth came to mind for you?
2. What is the problem with everybody being ruled by their own autonomy? When might autonomy be a good thing?
3. Why do you think positive freedom is important? Why is positive freedom elusive or confusing in our present culture?
4. Why does faith have to be genuine in order to bring freedom?
5. Jesus sets us free from the penalty of sin and the power of sin? How is this good news to each of the members of your group? What has Jesus been saying to you about this freedom?



deeper

in the word

1. What do we learn about "the Jews who had believed in him" (v.1) from John 2:23-25?
2. Why do you think Jesus places truth before freedom rather than freedom before truth? What do you think he means by "abide" in the truth?
3. Why do you think they were so concerned about being the "offspring of Abraham" (v.33)?
4. What did Jesus mean when he said, "everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin"? (see also Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:10).
5. Jesus argues that the Jews are trying (or will try) to kill him. What is the point he is trying to make?
6. Why is Jesus' sonship important for his ability to set people free (see John 3:35)?
7. What assurance does the phrase "free indeed" give us (v.36)?

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.

