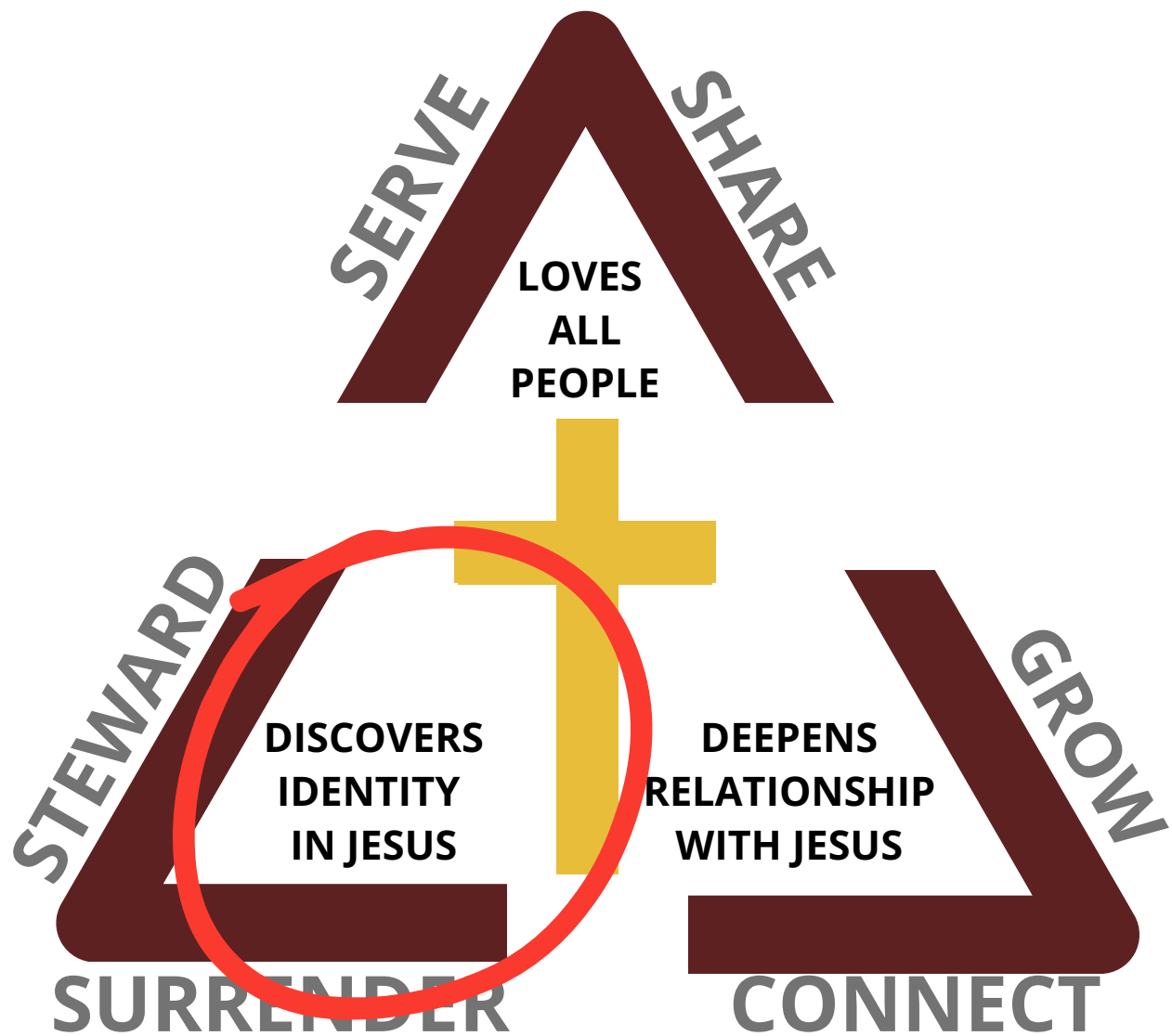


5-DAY DEVOTIONAL:



FINDING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

5-Day Devotional: Finding Your Identity in Christ

Dear Parents,

We are thrilled to share with you this devotional packet, which mirrors the topics and lessons we're covering with our students. This resource is designed not only to help keep you informed but also to empower you to engage in meaningful conversations with your teen about their spiritual journey. We believe that faith is best nurtured when reinforced both in the community & at home. These devotions provide a fantastic opportunity to deepen your connection with your teen, discuss the teachings they're receiving, & explore how these lessons apply to everyday life. We encourage you to set aside time each week to go through these devotions together, ask questions, & share your insights. This shared time can spark powerful discussions & help build a strong foundation of faith in your family. Along with the daily devotion, at the end of this document are the discussion questions that were covered in small group time to help you break down topics on a deeper level. Thank you for partnering with us in guiding our youth toward a deeper relationship with

Dylan & Faith Curtis

Day 1: The Source of Your Frustration

Scripture: "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." - Colossians 3:2

Devotional:

Have you ever found yourself at the end of the day, frustrated and angry, but unsure why? Often, our frustration stems from placing our value in temporary things—things that can be lost or taken away. When we measure ourselves by our achievements, relationships, or material possessions, we inevitably face disappointment because these things are not stable or eternal.

Consider what has been consuming your thoughts lately. What are you striving for that might be causing frustration when it doesn't go your way? Reflect on how placing your identity in anything other than Jesus can leave you feeling empty and dissatisfied.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to set my mind on things above and to place my identity in You, not in the temporary things of this world. Show me the areas of my life where I've been seeking worth outside of You. Amen.

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Day 2: Identity and Purpose

Scripture: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:10

Devotional:

Your identity shapes your actions. How you see yourself directly influences the way you live your life. When you understand that your true identity is found in Christ, it changes everything. You are God's masterpiece, created with a unique purpose in mind. Your worth isn't dependent on your performance, popularity, or possessions but on who you are in Jesus.

Today, consider how seeing yourself through God's eyes can transform your actions and choices. When you root your identity in Christ, you align yourself with His purpose for your life.

Prayer:

Father, remind me that I am Your handiwork, created with purpose and value. Help me to live out that purpose, knowing that my identity in You guides my every step. Amen.

Day 3: The Trap of Idolatry

Scripture: "You shall have no other gods before me." - Exodus 20:3

Devotional:

Idolatry isn't just about worshiping statues; it's about anything that takes God's place in your heart. Money, relationships, success, or even your own talents can become idols when you rely on them for your sense of identity and worth. The rich young ruler in Mark 10 walked away sad because he couldn't let go of his wealth, revealing that his identity was wrapped up in his possessions.

What are the things in your life that you're tempted to put before God? What idols have you allowed to take His place in your heart? Remember, only Jesus offers a love that cannot be taken away or diminished.

Prayer:

Jesus, show me the idols in my life that I need to surrender. Help me to put You first in all things, trusting that only You can satisfy the deepest desires of my heart. Amen.

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Day 4: Surrendering to Jesus

Scripture: "Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'" - Luke 9:23

Devotional:

Following Jesus means surrendering everything to Him, including your identity. This isn't a one-time decision but a daily choice to die to yourself and live for Christ. It's easy to fall back into old patterns of seeking worth in the things of this world, but Jesus calls you to follow Him and find your true identity in Him alone.

Reflect on areas of your life where you've been hesitant to fully surrender to Jesus. What is holding you back? Today, take a step of faith by giving those areas over to Him and trusting that He will lead you in His perfect plan.

Prayer:

Lord, I want to follow You wholeheartedly. Help me to deny myself, take up my cross, and surrender every part of my life to You. May I find my true identity in being Your disciple. Amen.

Day 5: A New Creation

Scripture: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Devotional:

When you place your identity in Jesus, you become a new creation. The old labels, mistakes, and identities that once defined you are gone. In Christ, you are made new, and you are given a fresh start every day. This new identity is not based on your past but on who Jesus says you are—loved, forgiven, and chosen.

As you go about your day, remember that your identity is not in what you do but in what Jesus has done for you. Live out of this new identity with confidence and joy, knowing that you are fully accepted and loved by God.

Prayer:

Thank You, Jesus, for making me a new creation. Help me to live in the reality of my new identity, leaving behind the old and embracing the new life You have given me. Amen.

Discussion Questions: Finding Your Identity in Christ

Reflecting on Identity and Frustration

1. Personal Reflection: Can you recall a time when you felt frustrated or angry but couldn't pinpoint the reason? What do you think was the root cause of those emotions?
2. Identity Check: What are some things in your life that you've placed your identity in? How do those things affect your mood and overall well-being?
3. Temporary vs. Eternal: Why do you think we often place our value in temporary things? What is the result of measuring yourself by these standards?

Understanding Jesus as the Foundation

1. Foundations: What does it mean for Jesus to be the cornerstone of your life? How can making Him your foundation change your perspective on your worth and purpose?
2. Comparison Trap: How do you think comparing yourself to others affects your relationship with Jesus? What are some practical ways to shift your focus back to Him?

The Story of the Rich Young Ruler

1. Barriers to Following Jesus: In the story of the rich young ruler, what was the barrier that kept him from fully following Jesus? What are some "possessions" or aspects of your life that may be holding you back from surrendering fully to Him?
2. Jesus' Love for Us: How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves you even when you're a mess? How can this understanding help you in your daily life and struggles?

Idolatry and Surrender

1. Identifying Idols: What are some idols in your life that might be taking the place of Jesus? How do these idols keep you from experiencing the true joy and contentment that God desires for you?
2. Surrender: Have you ever struggled with surrendering something important to you to Jesus? What was that experience like, and what did you learn from it?
3. New Identity in Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:17 talks about becoming a new creation in Christ. What does this "new identity" mean to you, and how does it differ from the identity the world offers?

Living Out Your Identity in Jesus

1. Practical Steps: What are some practical steps you can take this week to live out your identity in Jesus more fully?
2. Community Responsibility: The message talked about creating an environment where everyone feels loved and accepted. What role can you play in making sure your community reflects the love of Jesus to everyone?