

Small Group Guide



Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question:

When you were growing up, what word or phrase did people most often use to describe you? How did that shape how you saw yourself?

Key Takeaways

1. Identity precedes behavior - We don't simply live out what we believe is right; we tend to live out what we believe we are.
2. Grace superabounds beyond sin - God's forgiveness doesn't just cancel out sin and set us back to zero; it lavishes abundant blessing, life, and beauty upon us.
3. Redemption means belonging - We aren't just freed from slavery to sin; we are brought into God's arms as His treasured possession with a restored purpose.
4. Our new identity is received by faith - Discipleship is the ongoing task of letting our minds be renewed by believing what God says we are.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon mentioned that our culture often defines identity by desires, feelings, or sexuality. What are some other ways people in our world try to establish their identity?
2. How have you seen identity shape behavior in your own life or in others around you? Can you share an example?
3. Read Ephesians 1:7-8 and Romans 5:20 together. What does it mean that grace "abounds beyond abounding"? How is this different from simply having your debt paid?
4. Jeff said, "When we say 'I know God forgives me, but I can't forgive myself,' we proclaim the lavishness of sin and diminish the power of grace." Why is it difficult to accept God's lavish forgiveness? What keeps you from fully embracing it?
5. Are there areas of your past that you still allow to define you more than God's grace does? How might viewing yourself as "lavishly forgiven" change your perspective?

6. Read Exodus 19:3-6. God didn't just free Israel from slavery; He brought them to Himself for a purpose. What was that purpose? How does this parallel our redemption in Christ?
7. What does it mean to be God's "treasured possession"? How should this identity affect the way we live day-to-day?
8. The sermon stated that we are restored to our role as "priests" - representing God to the world and the world to God. What does this look like practically in your workplace, neighborhood, or family?
9. Jeff said, "Identity precedes behavior." How does focusing on behavior change (without identity change) lead to failure? Have you experienced this?
10. What would change in your life if you truly believed and lived from the identity that you are lavishly forgiven and God's treasured possession?