



more

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK TWO

BE A DISCIPLE

CORE IDENTITY



GOAL FOR WEEK TWO

The goal for tonight's group is to explore that as a child of God I am called to weigh the cost of surrendering the kingdom of me to the Lordship of Jesus and putting Him fully at the center of my life. I can see that my core identity is found in surrendering to Jesus, being His disciple, and becoming more like Him. I feel freedom in knowing that God calls me first to a relationship with Him; not to do or accomplish more for Him.



WEEK TWO: BE A DISCIPLE

Primary Calling = ^{BE}**cI** + ^{DO}**cM** + ^{GO}**cP**



GETTING STARTED

Each person answer True or False: You can believe in Jesus, repent of sin, confess or proclaim that Jesus is Lord, and be baptized; and still not live with Jesus fully at the center of your life.



MORE OF THE STORY

READ: Fox Network recently played a live musical about Christ’s last days on earth titled, “The Passion: Live” where British singer / songwriter Seal made his acting debut. A subsequent article based on an interview of Seal read, “Seal Talks God, Admits He’s Cultural Christian but Not Religious” (via ChristianPost.com).

Jesus addressed cultural Christianity to his followers. He said:

Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.
John 14:15

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
Matthew 16:24

Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 7:21

DISCUSS: How would you define “Cultural Christian?”

THE BIG POINTS OF WEEK TWO

1. MY CORE IDENTITY – I AM A CHILD OF GOD AND DISCIPLE OF JESUS.
2. MY CORE IDENTITY IS ABOUT WHO GOD CREATED ME TO BE, NOT WHAT I DO.
3. I CAN SEE HOW MY RELATIONSHIP WITH BEING A CHILD OF GOD RELATES TO BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS.
4. I CAN VISUALIZE THE “BE” CHARACTERISTICS BEING A DISCIPLE AND HOW IT MIGHT PLAY OUT IN MY LIFE.
5. MY PRIMARY ROLE IN THIS LIFE IS TO TAKE HOLD AND GROW INTO THE FULLNESS OF JESUS.

POINT 1

MY CORE IDENTITY – I AM A CHILD OF GOD AND DISCIPLE OF JESUS



In *More*, author Todd Wilson states that all other elements of calling rely on embracing the truth of finding our identity as a child of God and disciple of Jesus.

READ: Ephesians 1:3-6 and 1 John 3:1

DISCUSS: What does it mean to you to be a child of God? Take turns, giving each person 30 seconds to answer this question aloud.

READ: Matthew 16:24 and Luke 14:33

DISCUSS: What does it mean to you to be a disciple of Jesus?

POINT 2

MY CORE IDENTITY IS ABOUT WHO GOD CREATED ME TO BE, NOT WHAT I DO. (PSALM 139; EPHESIANS 2:10)



BREAKOUT & READ: Group A read Psalm 139:1-18 and Group B read Ephesians 4:17-24. Each group should take two minutes to read the verse(s) and then eight minutes to brainstorm three observations and three applications. Select a person to report your findings back to the larger group.

DISCUSS: How do these particular scriptures reinforce the idea that God has designed your core identity?

POINT 3

I CAN SEE HOW MY RELATIONSHIP WITH BEING A CHILD OF GOD RELATES TO BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS.



Our Father, as any father would, wants to see His children grow more mature. God knows that the more we become like Jesus, the more our core identity matures.

READ AND DISCUSS: 1 Peter 1:15 What does it mean to “be holy in all that you do?” How does this relate to having the fullness of Jesus in us?

PICK 5: In the New Testament there are 100s of “BE” verses, which are characteristics of “being like Jesus” and having his fullness in us. Take five minutes to read through a sampling of the “BE” verses. When you’re finished, take another two minutes to check off five “BE” characteristics that most resemble how you currently have Jesus’ fullness in you.

POINT 4

I CAN VISUALIZE THE “BE” CHARACTERISTICS BEING A DISCIPLE AND HOW IT MIGHT PLAY OUT IN MY LIFE.



DISCUSS: From the last exercise, what did you learn about Jesus’ attributes and character? In what ways do the core characteristics of Jesus that you discovered provide a good picture of what it looks like for the fullness of Jesus to be in someone?

We are created to BE children of God and disciples of Jesus. Our core identity is found in becoming more like Jesus. This first lens is designed to produce a clear picture of the characteristics of fullness Jesus calls us to.

PICK 3: Take the next five minutes to look through the list again and underline three “BE” characteristics that are particularly meaningful for you and that you want to work toward in your *More* journey.

POINT 5

MY PRIMARY ROLE IN THIS LIFE IS TO TAKE HOLD AND GROW INTO THE FULLNESS OF JESUS



READ: From *More* read the last paragraph on page 47 carrying over to the next paragraph on page 48.

DISCUSS: Does surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus require faith that produces good works and deeds?

Lordship must produce change and transformation in us in the form of fruit. So then, are we really under the Lordship of Jesus if we do not produce fruit, and continue to live and think as we did before coming under His authority?

CONSIDER: Our role is to make these characteristics personal in our lives. What behaviors need to change for you to become more like Jesus (based on a personal assessment of the characteristics you discovered in the previous exercise)?

PICK 1: Take the next five minutes to consider your three underlined “BE” characteristics from the previous exercise. Put a big star next to the one (only one) that you would like to be your focus. Write down one action you will take this week toward that one “BE” characteristic you selected.



1-THING SHARE



What is one thing that you heard, said, or thought tonight that you want to keep in the forefront of your mind all this week?



TAKING MORE HOME

Step 1: In your own words, what is your core identity?

Step 2: On the back of the first week’s guide was an outline detailing your *More* journey, entitled *My Personal Calling Card*. This week fill in the first box, labeled “My Core Identity” with your answer from Step 1.

Step 3: What is one long-term goal for 2016 to make Jesus the center of your life and surrendering to his Lordship, thereby giving up your role as the *lead* in the story?

BE VERSES

EPHESIANS

- 1:4 - Be holy and blameless
- 1:5 - Be sons of God
- 1:13 - Be filled with the Holy Spirit
- 1:17 - Be wise and discerning
- 2:5 - Be alive in Christ
- 2:14 - Be at peace
- 3:19 - Be filled with Jesus fullness
- 4:1 - Be captive to God
- 4:1 - Be a good steward
- 4:2 - Be humble and gentle
- 4:2 - Be peacemakers
- 4:2 - Be united
- 4:16 - Be engaged in using your gifts to serve others
- 4:17 - Be different than the world
- 4:18 - Be tender hearted
- 4:19 - Be generous
- 4:23 - Be transformed from your worldly thinking
- 4:25 - Be truthful
- 4:26 - Be calm in your anger
- 4:29 - Be encouraging and build others up
- 5:2 - Be loving
- 5:2 - Be sexually pure
- 5:4 - Be wholesome in your talk
- 5:4 - Be full of thanksgiving
- 5:8 - Be light in the darkness.
- 5:18 - Be sober
- 5:19 - Be thankful
- 6:10 - Be strong in God's power
- 6:18 - Be prayerful
- 6:18 - Be alert and on guard for evil

MATTHEW

- 5:6 - Be hungry for righteousness
- 5:7 - Be merciful
- 5:8 - Be pure
- 5:10 - Be willing to suffer for Jesus
- 5:11 - Be joyful
- 5:24 - Be forgiving
- 6:25 - Be worry free
- 7:21 - Be obedient
- 9:10 - Be among sinners
- 10:25 - Be like Jesus
- 12:36 - Be careful with your words

GALATIANS

- 5:22 - Be fruitful
- 6:2 - Be supportive, bearing one another's burdens
- 6:9 - Be perseverant

PHILIPPIANS

- 1:18 - Be bold
- 1:20 - Be courageous
- 4:11 - Be content

TITUS

- 1:7 - Be patient
- 1:7 - Be even tempered
- 1:7 - Be honest
- 1:8 - Be hospitable
- 1:8 - Be self-controlled
- 1:8 - Be upright
- 1:8 - Be disciplined
- 1:9 - Be committed to sound doctrine
- 2:5 - Be kind
- 3:2 - Be considerate

JAMES

- 1:19 - Be quick to listen
- 1:19 - Be slow to speak
- 1:19 - Be slow to become angry
- 2:1 - Be fair
- 3:17 - Be impartial
- 3:17 - Be sincere
- 4:7 - Be surrendered to God
- 5:16 - Be repentant

1 THESSALONIANS

- 1:9 - Be free from idols, serving the living and true God
- 5:12 - Be appreciative

2 THESSALONIANS

- 3:9 - Be a model for others to follow

HEBREWS

- 2:11 - be sanctified
- 3:2 - be faithful
- 3:5 - be a servant
- 4:11 - be people of Sabbath rest
- 4:12 - be engaged with the Word of God
- 4:13 - be accountable and exposed
- 6:11 - be full of hope
- 7:1 - be a blessing to others
- 7:3 - be reflections of Jesus Christ
- 10:7 - be doers of the will of God
- 10:24 - be encouragers, building others up
- 10:26 - be full of the knowledge of the truth
- 11:17 - be ready for evil
- 13:3 - be mindful of those in prison and oppressed
- 13:16 - be doers of good
- 13:24 - be welcoming