

Group Leader Guide-Oct 6, 2024

Sermon Recap

Psalms 139:13-14; Matthew 13:55; John 6; Matthew 16; Matthew 4;

Hebrews 4:15; Mark 1:11; Galatians 1:10; Exodus 3:10-14; Mark 4; John 11;

2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:3-14; Matthew 11:28

Pastor Jon continues the "Follow the Leader" series, focusing on how to keep Jesus at the center of our lives and understand our true identity in Him. He emphasizes that our identity and worth should be rooted in God's truth rather than societal pressures or personal shortcomings. Using examples from Jesus' life and scripture, Pastor Jon encourages us to look beyond our doubts and insecurities, reminding us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, chosen, and loved by God. Ultimately, he calls us to ground ourselves in the assurance of God's identity for us, allowing it to shape our actions and confidence in the world.

Quotes

"When we are grounded like Jesus, we are not thrown around by the winds and waves of opinions and left vulnerable to voices that are trying to pull us from all around. But instead, we can follow Jesus' example and ground that grounds us in the truth, that we are His, that we are beloved children of God. We can fight off those insecurities and are free to embrace God's free identity that He gives to each person." - Jon

"I live before the Audience of One. Before others I have nothing to gain, nothing to prove, nothing to lose." - Os Guinness

Discussion Questions

In the sermon, Pastor Jon talks about the pressure from societal voices that try to define our identity. How can we identify these voices in our own lives?

- Pastor Jon explains that society presents different ideas for what we should base our identity on, such as fame or success.
- Can you identify any specific voices or themes in your life that have influenced how you see yourself? How can you filter these views through God's truth?

Why do you think it's hard for people to accept their identity as a new creation in Christ, as mentioned in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

- Pastor Jon emphasizes how we are called new creations and how previous mistakes or failures can affect our self-perception.
- Reflect on some past mistakes; how can accepting that you are a new creation in Christ change your view on these events?

What does it mean to 'ground' our identity in Christ, and how can we practically do that in our everyday lives?

- Pastor Jon discusses how grounding our identity in God's truth gives us confidence and contentment in a world filled with distractions.
- Reflect on a time when you struggled with your self-identity; how can grounding yourself in Christ's love help in similar situations today?

How does the story of Jesus' baptism demonstrate the importance of divine approval over societal expectations?

- Pastor Jon highlights that when Jesus was baptized, he heard God affirm his identity before he accomplished any tasks or miracles.
- How can you seek and find your own identity through God's affirmation, rather than through your achievements or the opinions of others?

What role does prayer and scripture play in grounding our identity in Christ according to the sermon?

- Pastor Jon reminds us that grounding ourselves in God requires actively seeking his truth amidst other conflicting messages.
- How can you incorporate prayer and reading the Bible into your routine to reinforce your identity in Christ?

Prayer

- Ask God for clarity in understanding our identity as His creations.
- Pray for strength to stand firm against the voices that contradict God's truth about us.
- Request guidance in applying the message from the sermon to daily life this week.
- Remember any specific prayer requests shared at the beginning of the session.