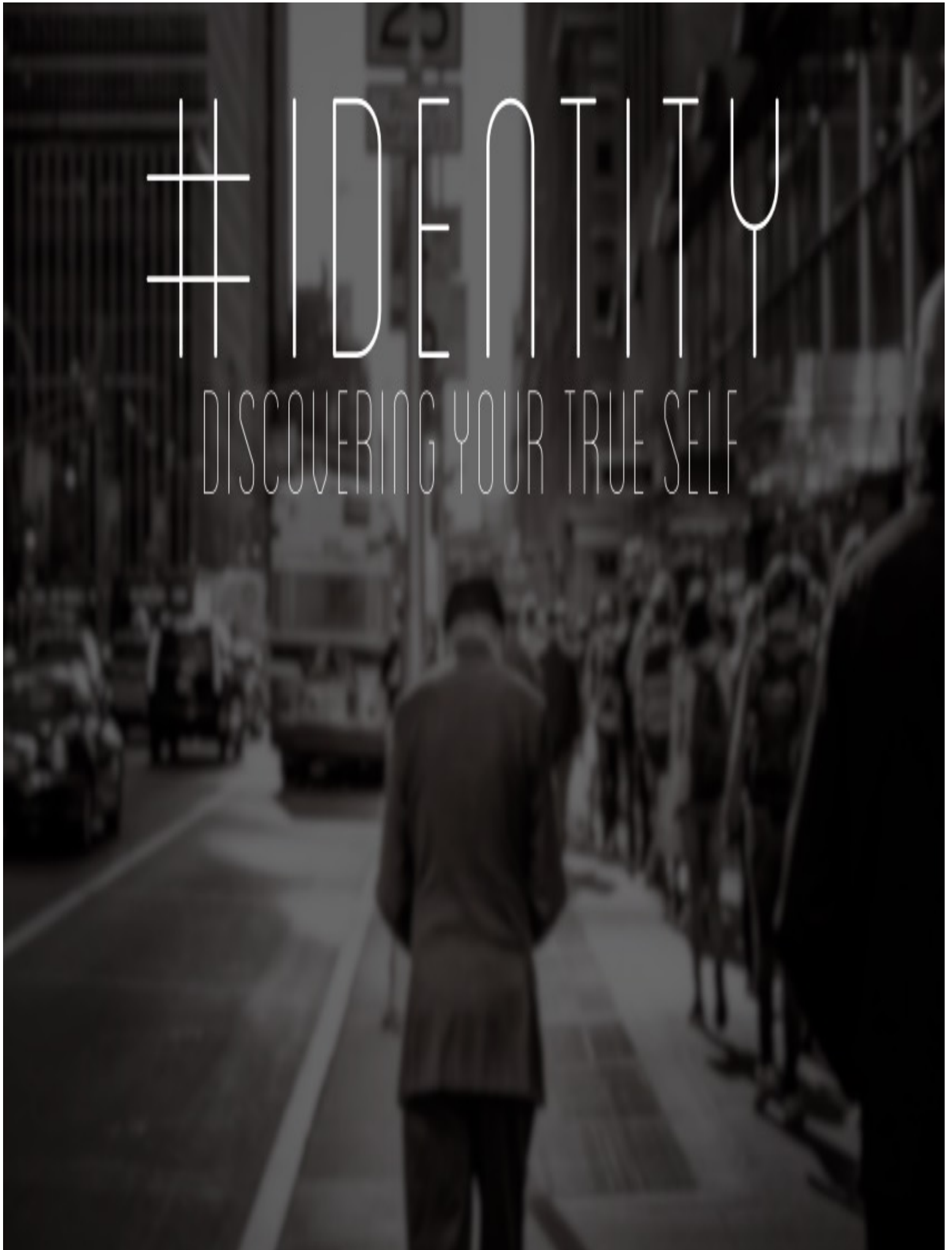


#IDENTITY

DISCOVERING YOUR TRUE SELF



#IDENTITY

- User Guide -

Welcome!

This guide is for you. It is to provide the space required for you to be able to wrestle with, contemplate and reflect upon, and ultimately realize who you are. This guide is to help you discover your true identity by answering a simply, yet profound, question: Who Am I?

Everything around you, your past, your relationships, your thoughts, your choices, even your genetics all communicate who you are. The environment you grew up in, the failures and victories you have acquired along the way, the relationships you have been a part of, and the memories that you have made all uniquely shape the person you are today.

Do you like the person you have become? When you look in the mirror, do you like the person looking back at you?

This guide was built to help you find your true identity. It is designed to be worked through either individually or with group. You can work through it on a week-to-week pace or power through at your own speed, it is completely up to you. As long as you get on the path to discovering your true identity then this guide has accomplished its purpose.

Thank you for starting the hard work of finding yourself so that you can live the life that you were designed to live.

Welcome to #Identity.
Let's get started.

Identity Guide | wk. 2 | #BLESSED

Read: Ephesians 1:3-6

Write: Journal about what spoke to you in this passage and answer these 3 questions:

1. What does being blessed mean to you?

2. How has God blessed you?

3. Fill in the blank: I am blessed because I am _____?

Reflect:

It's easy to view your life as blessed when everything is going great, filled with great things, or you still have cash in the bank at the end of month. It's another thing to view your life as being blessed because of one single relationship.

This is what happens when you enter into a relationship with Jesus. You are blessed solely because of Him. You are blessed because He chose you before time began. You are blessed because He chose to vacate Heaven for a suicide mission to save you from yourself and the Enemy that is trying to take you out. You are blessed because He chose to be broken for you, when you were the one guilty. You are blessed because of His sacrifice. You are blessed because even though He physically died that day, He is alive today because death and the grave could not contain the love that Jesus has for you. You are blessed because He chose you then, He chooses you now, and He chooses you tomorrow.

Way to go on completing your week two training. Look at you reclaiming your identity.

If you're working through this as a group, take this guide with you to your next meeting where we will be talking about being #UNITED.

Identity Guide | wk. 3 | #UNITED

Read: Ephesians 1:7-13

Write: Journal about what spoke to you in this passage and answer these 3 questions:

1. What stuck out to you in these verses and what are you going to do about it?

2. How has your past defined you? Is that definition of your identity accurate or a lie?

3. What does being united with Jesus look like to you?

Reflect:

Your past mistakes do not mean that you are mistake. Your past is not meaningless because you are not meaningless. Your past does not define you. The One who purchased your freedom by spilling His blood on a cross for you is the one who gets to define your identity.

God wants to rebuild your identity out of the ashes of your past failures. He wants to rewrite your story by redefining your identity, which is only found in Him. The only way that God can rewrite, rebuild, and redefine your identity is if you are united with Him. If there is anything separating you from the love of God, confess it to Him, ask for His forgiveness, and start living out your new identity today. You will be blessed because you are united with Him.

Way to go on completing your week three training. Keep it going!

If you're working through this as a group, take this guide with you to your next meeting where we will be talking about being #RECEIVER.

Identity Guide | wk. 4 | #RECEIVER

Read: Ephesians 2:1-2, 8-10

Write: Journal about what spoke to you in this passage and answer these 3 questions:

1. What stuck out to you these verses and what are you going to do about it?

2. Paul talks about how we are dead because of our past sin, in what ways has this applied to your life?

3. What is grace and what does it mean to you?

Reflect:

Your identity and life in Jesus is to simply receive from Him. Receiving encouragement, instruction, and freedom from your Creator and faithfully following the route that He has specifically designed for you. It is not your job to craft your future, instead it is your job to follow and receive. That's it. Your identity is not connected to your achievements or your failures. Your identity is not tied up in the things that you do, or your 'works,' according to Paul. Your identity was established by God, long before you were born, in His garden. You didn't even have a chance to say anything about it.

Receiving and following. You were made for this. Keep running that route receiver! The end zone is getting closer.

Way to go rock star! *Oh, oh, you're half way there.*

If you're working through this as a group, take this guide with you to your next meeting where we will be talking about being #CHILD.

Identity Guide | wk. 5 | #CHILD

Read: Ephesians 2:18-22; 3:14-19

Write: Journal about what spoke to you in this passage and answer these 3 questions:

1. What stuck out to you in these verses and what are you going to do about it?

2. What do you think it means to be ‘fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household’?

3. What does being a child of God mean to you?

Reflect:

A subtle, yet amazing, revelation that Paul points out to these Ephesian believers (and you today) is that God defines your identity. Verse 15 highlights that every family unit derives its name from God. This is a weird statement. According to the Biblical usage though, Paul is profoundly saying that when you enter into a relationship with God, not only are you now a part of the family of God, but He names you. This signifies that you now belong to Him. This is amazing! No longer are you separated from God, rather you now belong to Him!

Just like your parents gave you a name when you were born, so too has God given you a name. You are His child. You belong to Him. You are not an orphan, searching for a home you have never seen. Your Heavenly Father chose you, came after you, found you, fought for you, and now invites you to be a part of His family as His cherished son or daughter. You are His child.

Week 5, check! Your identity is getting stronger, keep it up!

If you're working through this as a group, take this guide with you to your next meeting where we will be talking about being #CONNECTED.

Identity Guide | wk. 6 | #CONNECTED

Read: Ephesians 2:18-22; 3:16-19

Write: Journal about what spoke to you in this passage and answer these 3 questions:

1. What stuck out to you these verses and what are you going to do about it?

2. Why does Paul pray that you will be strengthened with power by the Holy Spirit and that Jesus will dwell in your heart through faith? What do you think all of that means?

3. In what ways can you reinforce your connection with God? How can you be rooted and established in love?

Reflect:

You were born behind enemy lines. The world you live in is not the world that God intended for you. Things went horribly wrong when Satan tempted and successfully defeated your original parents. Ever since that moment, Satan has not stop tempted mankind with low hanging fruit that promises supreme satisfaction but in reality, it is a secondary object that will separate you from being connected with your Creator.

Instead of focusing on the low hanging fruit that Satan wants to tempt you with, you need to realize what you are truly worthy of: constantly connected in community with your Creator.

Congrats. Week six training is in the books. Keep fighting for your identity and staying connected to the only One who offers true fulfillment.

If you're working through this as a group, take this guide with you to your next meeting where we will be talking about being #BRANDNEW.

Identity Guide | wk. 7 | #BRANDNEW

Read: Ephesians 4:20-24

Write: Journal about what spoke to you in this passage and answer these 3 questions:

1. What stuck out to you these verses and what are you going to do about it?

2. How do you “put off your old self ... and put on the new self”?

3. In what ways have you tried to refurbish your old self, even though it is dead?

Reflect:

Profound things happen when you enter into a relationship with Jesus. Your past, sin, and false identity are all forgiven and erased. God no longer views you through that lens. He sees you as His son or daughter. When you enter into a relationship with Jesus, He replaces your old identity with a new one. He does not refurbish your broken pieces. He completely upgrades you and makes you brand new. Your past, sin, and false identity are all gone. They no longer define you because you are brand new!

This is great, but the consequences of your old life still affect you. This is because old habits, thought processes, and patterns have become muscle memory. You are no longer separated from God, but you are still susceptible to the things that kept you from Him. This is why Paul encourages you to put off your old self, have your mind renewed, and to put on the new self. He is showing you that your new identity in Christ means that you no longer do the things that separated you from Him. From now on your life should reflect the person who remade you. You are brand new. Now live like it.

Way to go! You have successfully completed this entire study on #IDENTITY.

You are no longer defined by your past, but rather you are a child of God, who is blessed by Him and united with Him, to simply receive from Him by being in constant relational connection with your Creator, who has made you brand new. Walk in that truth from now on child of God.

If you're working through this as a group, take this guide with you to your next meeting where we will be celebrating your new #IDENTITY.
