

“Remembering Who We Aren’t”

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INTRODUCTION

As we undertake a study of “Great ‘Buts’ of the Bible” we see that, in many instances, God chooses to intervene and redirect the course of our lives. Apart from the power of God’s love, mercy and grace, our lives would have a very different outcome. In the scriptures we will study, we are reminded who we are, and who we aren’t.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

If you met with someone who hadn’t seen you since High School graduation, do you think they would be surprised by who you have become?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

What Defines Who We Are?

Q1. Read 1 John 3:1a, 1 Corinthians 12:27, 2 Corinthians 5:18

Many voices compete to define us. How does each of these verses define who you are? Which do you find most difficult to relate to? In what ways do you see yourself in the ministry of reconciliation?

We Are Not Unloved

Q2 Read John 8:44, Ephesians 2:4-5, Romans 8:38-39

John 8:44 tells us that our enemy, Satan, is a liar. When circumstances cause us to feel unloved, we must choose to listen to the truth that God has given us in His word. What do Ephesians 2:4-5 and Romans 8:38-39 tell us about God’s love for us? Where would we be apart from God’s love?

We Are Not Unforgiven

Q3. Read Colossians 2:13b-14, 1 John 1:9

When we sin, we may find it difficult to seek or accept forgiveness. What assurances of forgiveness do Colossians 2:13b-14 and 1 John 1:9 give us? What do you find hinders you from swiftly seeking God’s forgiveness when you sin? What negative effects do you find when you carry your guilt rather than seek forgiveness? Take a minute with your group now to silently seek God’s forgiveness for any sin you haven’t brought to Him for forgiveness.

We Are Not Unchanged

Q4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:2, Philippians 1:6

Most of us are familiar with the promise of 2 Corinthians 5:17, but we might fail to see evidence of that change. What two choices are laid out for us in Romans 12:2? What are some of the ways you can “renew your mind” in order to be transformed? What would you consider some of the common pitfalls that cause you to be conformed to the world?

WRAP-UP

Without God our lives were on a disastrous course. But God chose to intervene in His powerful love and mercy and change the course of our lives. He has given us promises in his word that tell us who we are; His children, members of Christ’s body, and ministers of reconciliation. At times our circumstances may cause us to doubt those truths, but God has shown us that we are in fact loved, forgiven and changed.

Memory Verse

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions...

Ephesians 2:4-5a NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge:

This week if you are faced with circumstances that cause you to doubt who you are in Christ, read aloud the scriptures in this study that tell you who you are according to God.

Q1

1 John 3:1a ESV - 1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. ...

1 Corinthians 12:27 ESV - 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

2 Corinthians 5:18 ESV - 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

Q2

John 8:44 ESV - 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Ephesians 2:4-5 ESV - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved—

Romans 8:38-39 ESV - 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q3.

Colossians 2:13 ESV - 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

1 John 1:9 ESV - 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Q4.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV - 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Romans 12:2 ESV - 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 1:6 ESV - 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Prayer requests con't _____
