

# “Our True Identity”

## INTRODUCTION

When we chose to follow Jesus we received a new identity. But sometimes we may find it hard to see ourselves differently. There are so many things that can influence our perception of ourselves. We may be focused on how broken and undeserving we are. Or we may find that others question that we have changed. But how does God see us? The Bible is full of encouragement in our true identity if only we are willing to accept it and be filled with the truth of God’s love and power to change our lives.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Who would you say really knows you best?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Sons not Slaves**

**Q1. Read Romans 8:14-15; 2 Corinthians 6:18; 1 John 3:1; Mark 14:36; Galatians 4:6**

When we made the decision to follow Jesus, allowing Him to lead us, things changed. What does the Bible call those whom the Spirit of God leads? What does verse 15 contrast with this? The way we view God will influence the way we view our relationship to Him. What might cause people to view themselves as slaves to God? How do 2 Corinthians 6:18 and 1 John 3:1 give us a different picture of God?

In chapter 8 of Romans Paul tells us we have the Spirit of adoption as sons and cry “Abba, Father!” When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane he too called out to Abba Father. (Mark 14:36) How does Galatians 4:6 describe the relationship between you, Jesus and the Father? When we understand that this relationship exists only because of the great love God has for us, we can be confident that He listens to the cries of His children. What are some of the circumstances in your life that can only be addressed by calling out to your Abba, Father? Pray for each other for these in your group.

### **More than Conquerors**

**Q2. Read Romans 8:31-39**

When we find ourselves in difficult circumstances it is hard to see ourselves as conquerors. We need to embrace the meaning behind Romans 8:37 for it to take root in our lives. As you read Romans 8:31-39 what are the things mentioned that can create barriers to living as a conqueror? Verse 34 asks “Who is to condemn?” Perhaps you have condemned yourself, or listened to the accusations from the enemy. God’s truth can stand against our own self-

doubt and the enemy’s lies. What is it that challenges your belief that God is for you? Let verses 37 and 38 assure you that God’s love is more powerful than anything that sets itself against you.

### **Give Away What You are Filled With**

**Q3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11-12**

You have probably heard the phrase, “you are what you eat”. That is true in a spiritual sense as well. How do you fill yourself spiritually (e.g. worship, prayer, reading scripture). If we don’t choose to fill ourselves wisely we may be spilling out the wrong things to others. 2 Corinthians 9 explains that being filled with God’s grace allows us to overflow to good works. And according to verse 12 what does our service to others produce? How do you find yourself relating to others when you have been filled with God?

### **Wrap-Up**

If you are a follower of Jesus then you are a child of God. Despite what you’ve done wrong, despite what anyone else says, despite your brokenness, you are a child of the Almighty because of His love for you. God views you with the same affection He has for Jesus. He is your “Abba”, your loving papa, who hears your cries when you are hurting and in need. Even when circumstances don’t seem to support it, the truth is we are conquerors over anything that sets itself against us. Nothing can separate us from God and His love. When we allow ourselves to be filled with the love and grace of God we will overflow in good works toward others and as a result produce thanksgiving to God.

### **Memory Verse**

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

*Romans 8:14 NIV*

### **Prayer (20 MIN)**

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

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### **Challenge:**

**Start each day this week by filling up on God’s grace through worship, prayer, or reading of the Word.**

