

## Leaders' Guide, BS 5: Identify Yourself

**Goal:** That the student would understand that a Christian becomes a new person, and that this new identity in Christ changes the way a Christian should view everything.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 2:1-10

### Vision (2 minutes)

We want to be a Christ-centered community demonstrating compassion to MSU and campuses around the world. As much as we exist for one another, we also exist for the other 45,000 students at MSU. Here we want to reach in to each other's lives within this group but also to people outside this group who don't know Christ. This is a place where you can bring those who you are reaching out to. What would make this a place that you would want to bring your friends to?

### Getting to know you

*Hook:*

Agree or Disagree:

- ☐ Who you are determines how you live
- ☐ What you believe about who you are determines how you live
- ☐ When God looks at you what do you think that he thinks or feels about you? *You may need to share first so that people will be real!*

"We often think that the Bible is a list of things we need to do or not do. There are actually more references to who we ARE as followers of Christ. Following Christ is not about following a list of rules, but about living out who we truly ARE as followers of Jesus. There are many passages that describe who we are as a Christian. Tonight we are going to look at one of these found in the book of Ephesians. Looking at this passage we should learn a few things:"

- ☐ Who am I as a Christian?
- ☐ How does my relationship with God change the way I should view myself?
- ☐ How does God view me?

*Book and Look: You may want a large sheet of paper to record people's answers. It would be good to have 2 columns: Before faith in Christ, and after faith in Christ. This will help all to see what God has done for us.*

**What was true of how God viewed a person before they placed my faith in Christ?**

### Read Ephesians 2:1-3

- ☐ List out phrases that describe a person before they placed their faith in Christ.

We were...

*"dead in our transgressions and sins"*

- ☐ What does this mean?

*Spiritually we were far from God and not able to be close to Him because of living our way and not living His way.*

### *"gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature"*

*It means that, by our very nature, we had a deep primary desire to please ourselves, and no desire to please God. We had a strong "me-centered" infection. We lived how we wanted.*

### *"objects of wrath"*

- ☐ What does this mean?

*Because God's response to sin is a holy wrath, and because we were "in sin," we were objects of God's justice.*

- ☐ Who lived like this?

*All people at one time! Anyone that is not following God.*

### Read Ephesians 2:4-7

- ☐ List out phrases that describe a person who has placed their faith in Christ.

### *"God made us alive with Christ"*

- ☐ What does this mean?

*We have been made to share in the very life of Christ. We were spiritually "turned off" toward God, but God regenerated us spiritually through Christ. We live because He lives.*

### *"Saved"*

- ☐ What does this mean?

*We are rescued from wrath, death and spiritual separation from God.*

### *"God raised us up with Christ"*

- ☐ What does this mean?

*Even as Christ was raised from the dead, so, through His resurrection, were we when we placed our faith in Him.*

### *"God seated us with Him in the heavenly realms"*

- ☐ What does this mean?

*Because we have been identified with Christ, and therefore share in all that He has, God understands us to be with Him now.*

### *"God's workmanship, created for good works"*

- ☐ What does this mean?

*God has specifically shaped you for a great purpose. It literally means that we are His masterpiece made for a wonderful purpose. To do His "good works" we just need to be who He created us to be.*

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**Scripture:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**How does this reality affect your relationship with God? What do these things tell us about how God views us if we are in Christ?**

*It should give me confidence & security in my relationship with God—I'm seated with Christ! God sees me as He sees Christ. I can draw near to God without fear or shame. We should be free to approach God and love others.*

☐ **What keeps us from believing this about ourselves?**

☐ **How did such a radical change happen?**

*Because of God's love, grace and mercy, He made us alive in Christ.*

☐ **What needs to happen in a person's life to see a change like this?**

*We need to accept or receive God's love and mercy by placing our faith in Christ. Specifically we are trusting that His death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin. He received the wrath of God in our place.*

*Took:*

**Overall application questions/points:**

- ☐ How would you live differently if you saw yourself the way God sees you?
- ☐ Where do you need to adjust your thinking about your identity in Christ?
- ☐ In which of the 3 areas (how God sees you, how you view yourself, how you view your life/world) do you need most to ask God to change your thinking in?

**Prayer**

Take some time to pray for one another. Specifically pray for the areas mentioned in the application time.

**Announcements**

Along with the normal announcements like Real Life, you will want to mention that our fall getaway will be coming up October 20-22.

Next week, we will begin a discussion on how we should live out our new identity.