

Identity Anchored in Jesus

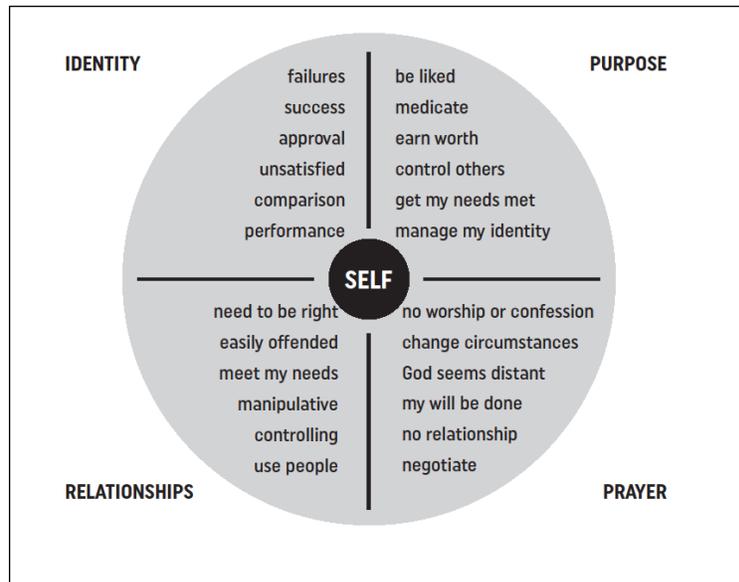
Small Group Discussion

A disciple's identity is anchored in Jesus so that all of life flows from that relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus is not just about what you do, but who you are.

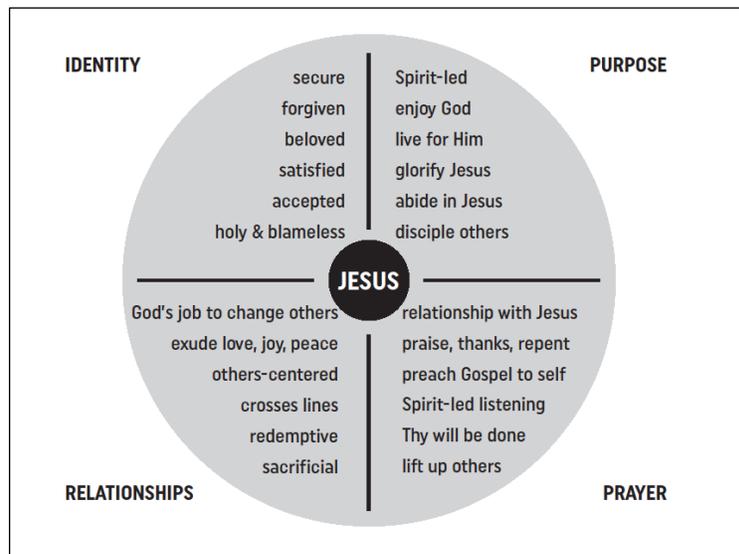
Watch the video clip of Pastor James Madsen:

Watch the video clip (found online at vimeo.com/317325582) of Pastor James Madsen to learn how shifting our focus from SELF to JESUS impacts our purpose and relationship with God and others.

Self at the Center



Jesus at the Center



Discuss the following questions:

1. If someone asked “Who are you?” what three words might you use to describe yourself?
2. How does what you believe shape how you live?
3. In what ways do you compartmentalize your faith in Christ?
4. How can you move towards making Jesus the center of your life and not just one of many parts?
5. What stands out to you about the two circles? What observations or applications can you make from this?

Read and talk about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus:

The CPC Discipleship team spent a year wrestling with what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We believe the character traits described below capture what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The Discipleship Resource (available at cpconline.org/discipleship) walks through each of these traits and offers suggestions for digging deeper into each one. Read through these traits together and talk about where you see God drawing you to grow.

- **A disciple of Jesus is first and foremost in a growing relationship with Him.**
Our relationship begins when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Because our identity is so anchored in our relationship with Jesus, spiritual practices are important in connecting our hearts to Jesus' heart.
- **A disciple of Jesus repents and believes the Gospel.**
A disciple sees their sin and shortcomings and puts their trust in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to make them right with God. By the grace of Christ, we are loved, accepted and stand before the Father as holy and blameless.
- **A disciple of Jesus grows increasingly dependent on Him for all of life.**
A follower of Jesus becomes more dependent on Him as the Holy Spirit aligns our loves and longings to what God desires and wants. As we die to self and find life in Christ, we steadily become more like Him.
- **A disciple of Jesus engages in a church community.**
We are called to gather in worship and live in authentic relationships with one another, to live out the 59 "one anothers" in the New Testament (eg. Love one another). Small groups, Circles, classes, and Sunday Communities are some examples of where we can connect in community.
- **A disciple of Jesus makes disciples.**
Being a disciple means we are continually helping others move towards greater joy and dependence in Christ.
- **A disciple of Jesus serves out of love for Him.**
Our love for others is compelled by Christ's love for us and what he did for us on the cross. The fruit of our dependence on Jesus is how we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

On Your Own:

Spend some time meditating on your identity in Christ using the list of statements on the following pages. Look up the verses and ask God to help you store these truths in your heart. There are over 90 statements on this list so you might appreciate incorporating them into your time with God over the next few months. Or they might help you jump start the devotional time you've been meaning to have.

Identity in Christ

The Word of God Says in Jesus Christ...

I am faithful (Ephesians 1:1)

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I have been justified (Romans 5:1)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:20)

I am a member of Christ's Body (1 Corinthians 12:27)

I am assured all things work together for good (Romans 8:28)

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

I am confident that God will perfect the work He has begun in me (Philippians 1:6)

I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3)

I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18)

I am blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)

I am chosen before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 11)

I am holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4)

I am adopted as his child (Ephesians 1:5)

I am given God's glorious grace lavishly and without restriction (Ephesians 1:5,8)

I am in Him (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:30)

I have redemption (Ephesians 1:8)

I am forgiven (Ephesians 1:8; Colossians 1:14)

I have purpose (Ephesians 1:9 & 3:11)

I have hope (Ephesians 1:12)

I am included (Ephesians 1:13)

I am sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)

I am a saint (Ephesians 1:18)

I am salt and light of the earth (Matthew 5:13-14)

I have been chosen and God desires me to bear fruit (John 15:1,5)

I am a personal witness of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8)

I am God's coworker (2 Corinthians 6:1)

I am a minister of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

I am alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5)

I am raised up with Christ (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:12)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6)

I have been shown the incomparable riches of God's grace (Ephesians 2:7)

God has expressed His kindness to me (Ephesians 2:7)

I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)

Discipleship: Identity Anchored in Jesus



I have been brought near to God through Christ's blood (Ephesians 2:13)

I have peace (Ephesians 2:14)

I have access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18)

I am a member of God's household (Ephesians 2:19)

I am secure (Ephesians 2:20)

I am a holy temple (Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 6:19)

I am a dwelling for the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:22)

I share in the promise of Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:6)

God's power works through me (Ephesians 3:7)

I can approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)

I know there is a purpose for my sufferings (Ephesians 3:13)

I can grasp how wide, long, high and deep Christ's love is (Ephesians 3:18)

I can honor God through being single (I Corinthians 7:32-35)

I am completed by God (Ephesians 3:19)

I can bring glory to God (Ephesians 3:21)

I have been called (Ephesians 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:9)

I can be humble, gentle, patient and lovingly tolerant of others (Ephesians 4:2)

I can mature spiritually (Ephesians 4:15)

I can be certain of God's truths and the lifestyle which He has called me to (Ephesians 4:17)

I can have a new attitude and a new lifestyle (Ephesians 4:21-32)

I can be kind and compassionate to others (Ephesians 4:32)

I can forgive others (Ephesians 4:32)

I am a light to others, and can exhibit goodness, righteousness and truth (Ephesians 5:8-9)

I can understand what God's will is (Ephesians 5:17)

I can give thanks for everything (Ephesians 5:20)

I don't have to always have my own agenda (Ephesians 5:21)

I can honor God through marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33)

I can parent my children with composure (Ephesians 6:4)

I can be strong (Ephesians 6:10)

I have God's power (Ephesians 6:10)

I can stand firm in the day of evil (Ephesians 6:13)

I am dead to sin (Romans 1:12)

I am not alone (Hebrews 13:5)

I am growing (Colossians 2:7)

I am His disciple (John 13:15)

I am prayed for by Jesus Christ (John 17:20-23)

I am united with other believers (John 17:20-23)

I am not in want (Philippians 4:19)

I possess the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16)

I am promised eternal life (John 6:47)

Discipleship: Identity Anchored in Jesus



I am promised a full life (John 10:10)

I am victorious (I John 5:4)

My heart and mind is protected with God's peace (Philippians 4:7)

I am chosen and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12)

I am blameless (I Corinthians 1:8)

I am set free (Romans 8:2; John 8:32)

I am crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)

I am a light in the world (Matthew 5:14)

I am more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37)

I am the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)

I am safe (I John 5:18)

I am part of God's kingdom (Revelation 1:6)

I am healed from sin (I Peter 2:24)

I am no longer condemned (Romans 8:1, 2)

I am not helpless (Philippians 4:13)

I am overcoming (I John 4:4)

I am persevering (Philippians 3:14)

I am protected (John 10:28)

I am born again (I Peter 1:23)

I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am delivered (Colossians 1:13)

I am redeemed from the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13)

I am qualified to share in His inheritance (Colossians 1:12)

I am victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57)