



Sharing August 23, 2020

Icebreaker: Have you purchased or stored up any extra items in the past few months, more than you normally would? Please explain.

We are studying foundational truths of the Bible that tell us who we are in Christ. Knowing our identity in Him gives us a firm foundation to build our lives on in crazy times.

“When we know who we are, we can act rather than react.” —Pastor Rob O’Neal

We’re look at some of the implications of belonging to God: having a relationship with Him, persevering, loving, forgiving, and serving. Some of the effects of the new normal are the temptation to isolate ourselves or be suspicious of others. This week we’ll see that knowing we belong to God spurs us to bless others and share the Good News of Jesus.

Bless

[Q] Read Genesis 12:1-3. What do you think this “blessing” Abram and his descendants were called to fulfill was meant to look like?

Share

[Q] Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Describe your identity in Christ:

[Q] How does Paul describe the responsibility that comes with your identity in Christ?

[Q] What words are used to capture your role in communicating the “message of reconciliation”?

Who we *are* determines what we *do*. Paul calls us ministers of reconciliation...verbally communicating with our friends and family that they can be made right with God. Paul says that God has given us this ministry and we have become stewards of a gift. He also calls us ambassadors...as though God is making His appeal through us!

[Q] Read Colossians 4:2-6. What does the Apostle Paul ask the Colossians to pray for him as he shares the Gospel?

[Q] What advice does Paul give the Colossians concerning how they should “be” with those who don't know Jesus yet?

[Q] According to 1 Peter 3:15, how are you to “be” as you share the “hope that is in you”?
“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”

Apply

[Q] What are some ways you can “be ready” to share about the hope that is in you this week?

How?

[Q] What tools do you need to learn in order to help share the good news of Jesus in a relevant and intentional manner? You may need to learn *how* to:

- ask good questions and be a better listener
- share your story of Christ's work in your life
- explain the good news of Jesus
- lead a friend to Christ

***The most effective witness occurs
in the context of authentic, caring relationships.***

Greg Ogden, *Discipleship Essentials*

The "BLESS" strategy is a tool which gives some easy, natural steps to help us to bless others.

WHAT THE BLESS LETTERS REPRESENT

B BEGIN WITH PRAYER - Ask God to help you identify someone or some family that needs to know Jesus. Begin to pray for them.

L LISTEN AND BE AWARE OF OTHERS' NEEDS

E EAT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS - Consider how you might connect your life with theirs.

S SERVE OTHERS IN BIG OR SMALL WAYS - What are some ideas to help you build the relationship and bless them?

S SHARE YOUR STORY - When the Holy Spirit moves you, tell them why Jesus means so much to you.