

Group Questions:

Start the group by praying. During this challenging time, we all need to ask for God to hold our heart and minds. Pray for one another and our country.

Sean talked about identity and purpose. Why are those so important to faith, even though so basic?

Read Hebrews 11:1-2

In the message Sean noted that *Confidence here means to have an “inner conviction of faith that comes from the Spirit of God, who is within.” No follower of Jesus is ever on this journey alone. We participate with God’s Spirit who helps us in this faith journey.*

Assurance here means to have a “title of possession.” Like the deed to a house. It’s the word, hypóstasis and is the Lord’s guarantee to fulfill the faith he originated with the followers of Jesus. It’s the same confidence that Paul was talking about back in Philippians (that he who began the work of faith and maturity will complete it). So, because of the work of God and presence of God within, we can walk on a solid foundation no matter what is going on in our world.

How would you rate your confidence and assurance during these turbulent times? Why? Talk about what it means to always have the security of Christ?

Read Hebrews 11:23-27.

Sean talked about 5 important questions that Moses answered to answer our big question: Where do we go from here? Walk through these as a group and unpack what resonates and/or challenges you?

Who am I (identity)?

Why is identity so critical? What happens when we forget who we are in Christ? When we forget that others are created in God’s image. Look at the attached “Identity Exercise.” Have you ever written your own Identity Statement?

What am I choosing?

Moses had to make specific choices in his life. How hard do you think that was for him? What are the hardest choices you've had to make? How have you been choosing God during this political season?

Sean noted the following ways to choose. Which resonates with you most? Why?
Work to recognize the image of God in everyone (everyone deserve dignity).
Give and serve with generosity (this is a hallmark of SFC).
Be open to invite and pursue theological discovery (we all need to keep growing).

What's most important to me (values)?

What do you think it was like for Moses to choose to be "mistreated." What was the reward that Moses was looking ahead toward? How can that affect our lives? Have you ever written out a list of core values for yourself? What are your core values?

Where am I headed (vision)?

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What have your eyes been fixed on lately? Why? How is that affecting you?

Will I continue (perseverance)?

How fatigued are you right now? Physically, emotionally, relationally, spiritually? How could you put Hebrews 12:1-3 into practice so you don't grow weary and/or lose heart.

Identity Exercise

Spend time reading and meditating on the following verses from Scripture. Ask the following questions: What are these verses saying about what God thinks of me? Then, write a 2-3 sentence statement that defines who you are—your identity. Don't worry about trying to say everything. Just focus in on what stands out to you. An example Identity Statement would be:

"I am an adopted child of God, created in his image, blessed with everything needed to experience the abundant life Jesus offers as I become more like him. I am considered holy and blameless because of the redemptive work of Jesus and am now experiencing new creation within and without as I live as an ambassador to the world. Along with the community of Jesus Followers, I am a citizen of God's Kingdom, living into an eternity with him."

Identity Verses:

1. **Genesis 1:27** ~ "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."
2. **Psalms 139:14** ~ "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

3. **Jeremiah 1:5** ~ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
4. **John 1:12** ~ “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”
5. **John 8:36**~ “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
6. **John 15:15**~ “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”
7. **John 15:16**~ “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”
8. **Romans 6:6**~ “We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”
9. **Romans 8:1**~ “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
10. **Romans 8:14-15**~ “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”
11. **Romans 8:37**~ “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”
12. **Romans 12:5**~ “. . . so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”
13. **1 Corinthians 1:30**~ “And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,”
14. **1 Corinthians 2:16**~ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.”
15. **1 Corinthians 15:58**~“ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
16. **2 Corinthians 5:17**~ “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
17. **Galatians 2:20**~ “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
18. **Galatians 3:26**~“ . . . for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”
19. **Galatians 4:7**~ “So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”
20. **Ephesians 1:3**~ “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,”
21. **Ephesians 1:7-8**~“ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.”
22. **Ephesians 1:11**~ “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,”
23. **Ephesians 1:12**~ “. . . so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.”

24. **Ephesians 2:6**~ “. . . and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”
25. **Ephesians 2:7**~ “so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”
26. **Ephesians 2:10**~ “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
27. **Ephesians 2:13**~ “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”
28. **Ephesians 2:22**~ “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”
29. **Ephesians 5:8**~ “. . . for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”
30. **Philippians 3:20**~ “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,”
31. **Colossians 1:27**~ “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
32. **Colossians 3:3**~ “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
33. **1 Peter 2:9** ~ “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
34. **1 John 3:1-2**~ “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”

Write down your own Identity Statement: