

FRESH FAITH: EPHESIANS

WEEK 1 | KNOW WHO YOU ARE

OCTOBER 7, 2018

SERMON STUDY

Let's dive deeper into this week's message and passages from the Bible. Here are some questions to help guide your group discussion:

Read Psalm 51:12 and Ezekiel 37:11

When we chase after things that we think will give us our identity and consistently come up empty, we can feel that all hope is gone.

- When have you ever felt burned out, tired or unmotivated?
- If you've ever felt jaded by or bored with church, how did that impact you?

Read Ezekial 37:4-5 and Ephesians 1:1-2.

Ephesians gives us a good indication of what the rest of the bible is about. It is a concise, yet comprehensive, summary of what God offers us through Jesus and its implications for our lives.

- Do you tend to think of the bible as being relevant to your own busy, complicated, modern life? Explain why or why not.
- How does it feel to know that First Century Christians dealt with the same things we do today—things like marriage, conflict, work, families, prostitution and more—and that the bible is rooted within those contexts?

Read Ephesians 1:4, 2 Peter 3:9, and Ephesians 1:5.

Many of us try to find our identity in what we do, how we look, what we earn, what people think of us or more. And we're finding that it's not enough.

- How does it feel to know that, even before he made the world, God had you in mind—he already knew you and loved you?
- On a scale of 1-10, how do you think God feels about you right now?
- What does it mean to you to know that you don't have to do something to earn his love—you just need to choose to receive him and choose find your identity in him?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit in you and me assures us that Jesus will finish the work he started in us. God will finish what he has started in you.

- Ask yourself: "Who am I?" Do you answer the question with something you *do* or do you answer the question with why you're here, what you're living for or how you impact others?
- In what ways can you, in Jesus, start living *from* your identity instead of *for* your identity?

REFLECT

What is God saying to you through his word? What are you going to do about it, and when?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Here's an overview of what we're being challenged with this week in Daily Bible Reading:

Day 1: Psalm 51:12 & Ezekiel 37:11 | Fresh wind from God.

Day 2: Ephesians 1:1-12 | God's word is for you, today.

Day 3: Ephesians 1:4-5 | God chose you!

Day 4: 2 Peter 3:9 | Your identity in Jesus.

Day 5: Ephesians 1:13-14 | Live from, not for, your identity.