



Discussion Questions for the week of September 28

We seek to find our identity in everywhere else except where our true identity lies. We look for identity in how we look, how we feel, what we do, what others say about us. All of that may be true, but is that what makes up our true identity? In this series we look at how scripture answers the question: Who Am I?

When we find our identity in our desires, we question God's direction and continually seek satisfaction in what looks good, feels good, tastes good, etc. The problem with desire and it's never enough. But God is enough. We can be Holy because He is Holy. We desire to be happy, God designed us and died for us to be Holy.

ICE BREAKER:

If genie popped out right now and you had 1 wish, what would you wish for?

(can't be "more wishes")

DISCUSSION:

1. Read Genesis 3:1-8 as a group. What's the struggle happening in this account?
We see choice and free will and the opportunity to follow God's direction or choose our own way.
2. What caused Adam/ Eve to choose their own way? What were they chasing?
(It's ok to be unsure of the answer for kids #3 & #4 help them go deeper, so you can move to follow up questions if they are sitting in uncertainty.)
3. Read verse 6 in Genesis 3. (maybe read a few different translations- we looked at ESV, NIV, and NLT). When looking at verse 6 why was the fruit attractive? If you read in the NLT translation of verse 6 what does it say about what the fruit would do?
4. What are some things you desire in life? Now and/or in the future.
5. Our desires don't have to be bad, but living in our desires, good or bad, isn't God's best. What are things that we desire that can distract us from the Lord or God's best for us?
6. This Sunday Harrison said, "We desire to be happy, but God designed us to be Holy." Do you think God doesn't want you to be Happy? Why?
7. Why does God not want you to hold on too tightly to our desires?
8. Read Galatians 5:16-17. What are desires of the flesh in you that are in conflict or at war with the desires of the Spirit of Christ in you? Did Adam and Eve desire God's wisdom or knowledge for self?
9. Read Galatians 5:19-21. This list is long but does not include everything. Do the desires of the flesh satisfy? Then why do we continue to run to the desires of the flesh to find satisfaction?
10. Read Galatians 5:22-23. What are the differences between the fruits of the Spirit and the desires of the flesh in v. 19-21?
11. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Does this verse tell us that if we delight in the Lord we'll get whatever we want? If we delight in the Lord, what desires of the heart do we receive?
We are delighted in the Lord – We are fully satisfied in God
12. Read Proverbs 4:23-27. What are practical ways that we see in Scripture that we cannot live identified in our desires, but live dependent on God's direction?

APPLICATION:

13. Are there any desires in your life that could lead to addiction or pain for you or others in the future if you're not careful? How can your small group hold you accountable to that?

A renowned pastor, John Piper, says "God is most glorified by us when we are most satisfied in Him. What does satisfaction in Christ look like?

11. Read Galatians 5:24. How can you "crucify the flesh and it's passions and desires" in your life and surrender your thoughts and actions to Christ? What are some specific and practical ways?
12. Equipping: Questions to ask yourself when thinking through a "desire" or decision:
Am I putting God's desires ahead of my own? (Matt 6:33)
Will this help me lead a more holy life? (1 Peter 1:15-16)
Am I doing this for God's glory? (1 Cor 10:31)
Am I living as a man or woman whose God is enough?