

# Small Group Discussion Guide

## Identity & Freedom

May 31, 2026

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**One of the greatest battles every Christian faces is the battle for identity. The world constantly tries to tell us who we are based on our achievements, failures, status, or the opinions of others. Yet God's Word offers a completely different perspective. Our true identity is found in Christ, not in the changing standards of the world. As followers of Jesus, we are called to embrace God's truth about who we are and choose a lifestyle that attracts the blessings of God by walking in faith, obedience, and His purpose for our lives.**

### I. Our Objective —See Clearly in “The Mirror”

James 1:22–25 (NIV®)

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

- **James compares Scripture to a mirror. When we look into God's Word, we discover who we truly are. The challenge is not merely hearing what God says about us but believing it and living accordingly. True freedom comes when we embrace our God-given identity and walk in obedience to His truth. What does the comparison of “God's Word is like a mirror” teach you about how Christ followers should approach Scripture?**

Hebrews 4:12–13 (NIV®)

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- **Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us that the Word of God is living and active, exposing the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts. It reveals areas that need transformation and reminds us of who we are in Christ. Why can that be both uncomfortable and ultimately beneficial in our walk with Christ?**

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV®)

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Paul prayed in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 that God would sanctify believers completely—spirit, soul, and body. God desires to transform every part of our lives as we continually look into the mirror of His truth.**

Spirit: our connection and relationship with God.

Soul: our mind, will, emotions.

Body: our actions, habits, choices.

- **Which part of your life do you feel needs the greatest attention from God right now?**

### **Proclamation**

Now may the God of Peace, Himself, sanctify us completely. May our whole person—spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

## **II. A Life Upgrade**

- **Many believers struggle because they allow their identity to be shaped by their past rather than by God's promises. However, our past does not have the power to keep us from God's best when we place our trust in Him. As followers of Christ, we are called to be willing to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, fully surrendered to God's will and purpose. When we approach God with child-like faith—trusting, believing, and depending on Him—we position ourselves to experience His transforming power, embrace our true identity, and walk confidently in the future He has prepared for us.**
- **The Bible declares incredible truths about those who belong to Christ. Read these together as a group:**
  - I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14)
  - I am a child of God; God is spiritually my Father (John 1:12)
  - I am Jesus' friend (John 15:15)
  - I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him (Romans 8:17)
  - I am a temple, a dwelling place of God; His spirit and His life dwell in me (1 Corinthians 3:16)
  - I am God's workmanship, His handiwork – born anew in Christ to do His work (Ephesians 2:10)
  - I am not the great "I am", but by God's grace, I am who I am (1 Corinthians 15:9-10)
  - I am righteous and holy (Ephesians 4:24)
  - I am free of condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)
  - I am a citizen of heaven, an alien in this present age (Philippians 3:20-21)
  - I am an enemy of the devil (1 Peter 5:8-9)
  - I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12)
- **Which of the "I Am" statements stands out to you the most, and how does it challenge or encourage you? What practical step can you take this week to live more fully from your identity in Christ?**

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and calling us Your children. Help us see ourselves through the mirror of Your Word. Replace every lie with Your truth and every fear with faith. Remind us that we are chosen, loved, forgiven, and free in Christ. Empower us to live according to our true identity and bring glory to You in all we do. In Jesus' name, amen.