



GOSPEL
Identity
names from 1 Peter

new life holy
treasured believer
brother family
born again **saved** heir
adopted new name
new creation

2016 summer study guide

You are:

Beautiful

AWKWARD

Smart

Successful

Disappointing

The **labels** we're given shape our

identity.

This summer we want to listen for *new* names given
to us.

Names that teach us about
our true identity; new names that give us

unshakeable hope.

Why a study guide?

The staff has created this study as a companion guide to our Summer Sermon Series; Gospel Identity: *Names from I Peter*. Our prayer is that this study will challenge you to think deeply about the implications of the gospel. Identify a group of family or friends who would be willing to work through this study with you. Ask them to join you.

Why Gospel Identity?

This summer, the pastors will be teaching us about the new names given to us as believers. These names teach us about our true identity which is rooted in the gospel. *Gospel Identity, Discovering Who You Really Are* is also the title of one of the books that we are using in the Disciple-Making Initiative. Some of our summer study lessons loosely correlate to the sessions in the book, *Gospel Identity* (World Harvest Mission, 2012).

What's the format of the study guide?

Each study has an introductory question that gets you thinking about the topic, a couple of content questions based on the scripture passages, a “me” question and a “mission” question. Our prayer is that these questions will help you apply what you are learning to your head (knowledge), heart (transformation), and hands (action).

As you meet together, take time to get to know one another. Create a safe place where you can share freely. Pray together. Encourage one another.

Contents

Week of	Lesson	page
June 5	Lesson 1: What's in a Name?	6
June 12	Lesson 2: I am Elect	7
June 19	Lesson 3: I am Dispersed	8
June 26	Lesson 4: I am Born Again	9
July 3	Lesson 5: I am an Heir	10
July 10	Lesson 6: I am Saved	11
July 17	Lesson 7: I am Treasured	12
July 24	Lesson 8: I am a Believer	13
July 31	Lesson 9: I am Adopted	14
August 7	Lesson 10: I am Holy	15
August 14	Lesson 11: I am Exiled	16
August 21	Lesson 12: I am Ransomed	17
August 28	Lesson 13: I am a Brother	18
September 4	Lesson 14: I am Imperishable	19

Appendix

The Cross Chart	21
EP Church's Mission	22

Lesson 1: What's in a Name?

June 5, 2016

1. Take some time to introduce yourself to your group. As you introduce yourself tell the group what your name means.

Read I Peter 1:1 and Matthew 16:13-20.

2. In these verses we learn that names have meaning. List the names and titles in these verses. What is the significance of each one? Christ renamed Peter in John 1:42. Why was this name change important.
(Think about what you know about Peter. Read Matthew 26:30-75.)

3. What name is the world calling you that you are believing about yourself?

4. As a believer in Christ, I have been given a new identity, a new name. What new names does Christ give me?

5. Who I have a friend who is believing the names that the world is calling him or her? Make a plan to meet with my friend and tell them about the new identity that is found in Christ.

Lesson 2: I am Elect

June 12, 2016

1. Have you ever been given a place of honor that you did not deserve or expect? What impact did that have on your life?

Read I Peter 1:1-2.

Peter is writing to the elect exiles of the Dispersion. When Peter calls his readers “the elect”, he is reminding them of their status as God’s chosen people.

2. What does Peter want the elect to know about the work that God, the Father, Son, and Spirit, is doing for them? How does this remind them of their status as the elect?

Read 2 Timothy 2:8-13.

3. What challenge does Timothy give to the elect? Why? What does he want them to remember?
4. Read I Peter 1:2 again. Write down ways God has shown his grace to me and given me peace in the midst of difficult circumstances?
Take time to thank God for His grace and peace.
5. Who needs to be reminded of his or her status as one of God’s chosen ones? Pray for this friend. In what way can I remind them whose they are?

Lesson 3: I am Dispersed

June 19, 2016

1. Think of a time that you were the new kid on the block or in a strange place. Describe your experience.

Read Acts 7-8:8.

2. What was the Big Idea of Stephen's speech? How did people react to Stephen's speech? What were the immediate actions that took place after the speech? What part did Saul play in these actions?
3. What happened when Philip proclaimed Christ to the people in Samaria? What was the purpose/result of the Dispersion? (*The Dispersion was a term that referred to Jews living outside of Palestine; people who were away from their true homeland.*)
4. In what ways does interacting with the gospel (paying attention, hearing and seeing) produce joy in my life? Where is the evidence of gospel-produced joy in my life?
5. Who can I tell about this joy today?

Lesson 4: I am Born Again

June 26, 2016

1. Share about a time in your life when a big change occurred. Describe the before and after.

Read I Peter 1:3.

According to God's great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Having a new identity in Christ changes everything.

2. Read the account of Nicodemus's encounter with Christ in John 3:1-8. In what ways did this encounter change Nicodemus?
3. Read Titus 3:3-5. What do these verses tell us about the transforming work of the Spirit in our lives?
4. Where do I see transformation in my own life. How has knowing Jesus made a difference in my life?
5. If someone asked me the question, "What does it mean to be born again?", What would I say?

Lesson 5: I am an Heir

July 3, 2016

1. Have you ever been really excited to receive a gift only to have it break right after you received it? How did that make you feel?

Read I Peter 1:4 and Hebrews 6:13-20.

God has promised “an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” to those who are born again.

2. According to these verses, what riches are ours in Christ.
3. Which one of these “riches” is a comfort to me today?
4. Who do I know who is living without these riches? Tell them about these riches.

Lesson 6: I am Saved

July 10, 2016

1. If you've ever taken a CPR class, you probably know that they teach you how to do the Heimlich maneuver on yourself but they don't teach you how to do CPR on yourself. Why do you think this is?

Read I Peter 1:5, 10-12 and Ephesians 2:1-10

2. What does Ephesians 2 tell us about our status before Christ and what is it now because of Christ?
3. According to both of these passages, what parts of my salvation am I responsible for and what parts is God responsible for?

Christ came on a rescue mission to earth, leaving the safety of heaven in order that I one day could enter that same safety.

4. While these verses are clear that our salvation is not dependent on our actions, what does it indicate is the purpose of our salvation? How ought we live now that we are saved?
5. Re-read Ephesians 2:3. How does this verse change the way I view and interact with other people, *specifically those whose lives I disagree with*?

Lesson 7: I am Treasured

July 17, 2016

1. What does the phrase “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” mean?
Can you think of a thing that you treasure that others might feel is trash?

Read I Peter 1:6-7 and Zephaniah 3:14-20

2. In light of what you just read, what is it that turns suffering into joy and praise?

Christ is the greatest treasure of God the Father (John 17:24), but he experienced being forsaken by the Father, so that God could treasure us as well. (Colossians 3:12)

3. What are ways the world is telling me I am trash? Do I believe it? Can I be trash to the world and still treasured by God?
4. How do I combat the lies of this world with God’s truth?
5. What are ways that I can affirm the worth of other people, whom the world has declared trash, but God loves and has called me to love? *(Think this through generally, but also get specific and personal)*

Lesson 8: I am a Believer

July 24, 2016

1. Have you ever been in a really, really dark place? How did you feel? What happened when a light shined in that dark place?

Read I Peter 1:8-9, 20-21 and John 1:9-14.

2. How was Christ received when he came into this world? Compare the two passages above.

3. List everything you have learned about the light in John 1:9-14.

4. What is the significance of this light to me as a believer?

Read Philippians 2:1-18. In verse 15 Paul says that we will “shine like stars in the universe.

5. Who do I know that needs to see this light? Make a plan today to share the light of Christ with them.

Lesson 9: I am Adopted

July 31, 2016

1. What things are most meaningful about being a part of a family? Most difficult?

Read I Peter 1:13-14 and Galatians 4:1-10

2. When will we receive the full inheritance promised to us?
3. What do both these passages warn against us doing now that we have been adopted as the children of God?

Christ, the only Son of God, left the presence of his Father so that we could also be called the sons of God and he shares with us the eternal inheritance of the Kingdom of God.

4. What are the benefits and responsibilities of being adopted by God?
(See above references and Psalm 103:13-14; Matthew 7:9-11;
Romans 8:14-17; Hebrews 12:5-11)
5. How does my adoption into the family of God (and knowledge of that family) free me to invite others into that fellowship?

Lesson 10: I am Holy

August 7, 2016

1. Have you ever told a child that they are good at something, when they are objectively bad at that thing? Explain. Why do we say things like that? What is our motivation or desire in statements like that?

Read I Peter 1:15-16, Leviticus 19:1-18, and II Corinthians 5:21

2. According to these passages, what is the standard of holiness? The reason for holiness? The way to holiness?
3. Think through the commands given on Leviticus 19. Are you living up to the standard of righteousness laid before you? How is II Corinthians 5:21 comforting in light of this?

Christ who is perfectly holy, became sin, so that my sin could be dealt with and I, who am sin, could become perfectly holy.

4. Though I have been called holy, I have also been called to be holy. What things do I need to repent of? (Remember, I am to compare myself to God not to other people.) See the Cross Chart on page 22.
5. Think about Leviticus 19:9-18, which shows us how to love our neighbors as ourselves, What are the present day implications of these commands? (Think specifically through the commands. For example, verses 9-10 can be understood to encourage me to budget money for freely loving others. To not budget to the last penny allows me to “leave some for the poor.”)

Lesson 11: I am Exiled

August 14, 2016

1. Can you think of a time when you were lost or in the dark not sure where to go? A time when you felt alone?

Read I Peter 1: 17 and I Peter 2:9-12.

2. How does Peter describe God's people in I Peter 2: 9?
3. What are the characteristics of these people when they were "not a people" and now when they are "God's people."?
4. What impact does being identified as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's possession have on the way I view myself? my world? others? my heavenly father?
5. In what ways is God calling me to shine as a light in this dark world? What effect could this have on my family? Friends? Neighbors? Classmates? coworkers?

Lesson 12: I am Ransomed

August 21, 2016

1. Describe a story or your own life experience where something was ransomed in order to set someone free?

Read I Peter 1: 17-20.

In Peter's Day "to redeem" was a commercial term for the liberation of a slave or war-captive by payment of a price for purchase or ransom.

2. How does "knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers" show your need for Christ?

Read John 1:29-34.

3. List everything these verses say about Jesus, the Lamb of God.
4. In what ways do I continue to live as if I am a slave?

The beauty of our new identity in Christ, being redeemed, is that we belonged to someone else and ***Christ paid the price to get us back.***

5. Think about people I know who are living in slavery to sin and suffering.
Who needs to hear the hope of redemption? Am I willing to tell them?
What will I say?

Lesson 13: I am a Brother

August 28, 2016

1. Do you have someone in your life who is like a brother or sister to you?
What is that relationship like? What are some pleasant memories of this relationship? What are some disappointments?

In 1 Peter 1:22 Peter refers to a sincere brotherly love, a love in which we love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

2. What is the source of this love?
3. Read the book of Philemon and make a list of all the characteristics of this brotherly love.
4. Is there someone in my life who is in need of this selfless, sincere, deep, brotherly love? What is one way that I can show this love?
(see Matthew 28)

I am Imperishable

September 4, 2016

1. As kids we often think we are going to live forever, when did you first realize that life ended? What were the emotions that accompanied that realization?

Read I Peter 1:23-25 and I Corinthians 15:35-58

2. List all of the changes in I Corinthians 15 that will take place when we are resurrected. What defines our life now? What defines our life in the resurrection?

3. According to I Peter 1:23-25, what lasts forever?

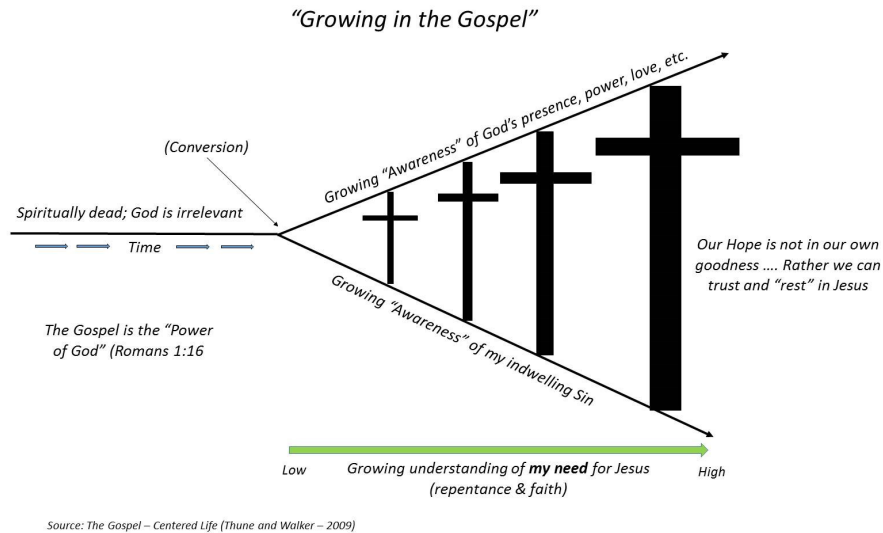
Christ, the eternal (undying) Son of God left heaven and came to earth and died (Philippians 2:5-8), so that I, who am bound by death, could live eternally.

4. In what ways do I live as if Death still has power over me? What would mark my life if I truly believed that I was imperishable (see II Corinthians 15:58)?

5. Do I know people who are living without this hope of life to come? If so, how can I share this hope with them? If not, how can I put myself in situations to meet people who need to hear of this great hope?

Appendix

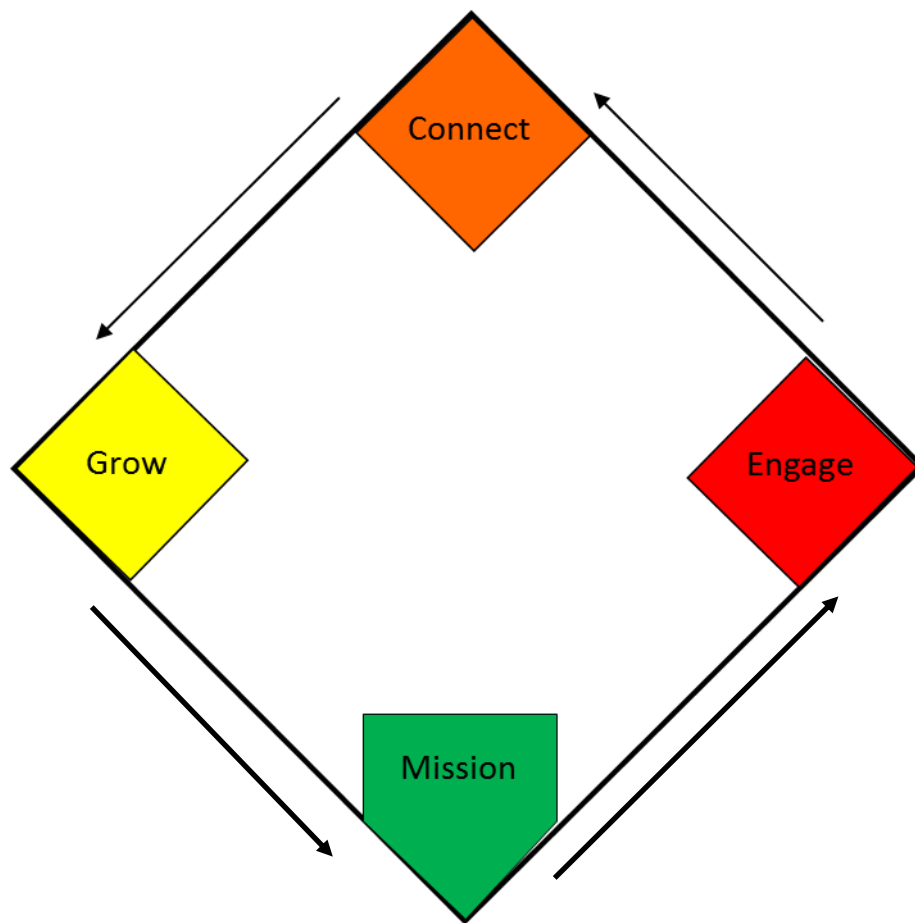
The Cross Chart



Growing in the gospel means seeing more of God’s holiness and more of my sin. And because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross, we need not fear seeing God as he really is or admitting how broken we really are. Our hope is not in our own goodness, nor in the vain expectation that God will compromise his standards and “grade on a curve.” Rather, we rest in Jesus as our perfect Redeemer—the One who is our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 1 Cor 1:30

Source: *The Gospel-Centered Life* (Thune and Walker-2009)

Our Mission. EP Church is a community of God's people
seeking the renewal of Annapolis
as we are renewed by the gospel.



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