

9.25.16 Identity Discussion Questions

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. When you were growing up which family member did you feel your personality was most like?
2. What areas of your life/personality do you feel like the Holy Spirit is asking you to work on to become more like Jesus?

Background

Psalm 8 is attributed to David and was possibly used as we would use a hymn or worship song today. As with all of the psalms Psalm 8 is a poem and in Hebrew poetry there is a method of writing that is designed to draw attention to what is the in the center of the psalm. That method is called a chiasmic structure. That is a fancy term that means the first and last lines are identical or nearly so and the lines or stanzas moving from either end toward the middle are related in order to draw attention to the center of the psalm. This structure is designed to cause the reader to pay special attention to the center lines. Therefore, if a chiasmic structure was used in Psalm 8 then David may have been making a point about God and his relationship to the people he has created.

Read Psalm 8

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. How does the psalm open and close?
2. What question does David ask in verse 4?
3. What is the response to the question in verse 4?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. Psalm 8 opens with a declaration about God and his majesty; in what ways does this affect how you read the rest of the psalm?
2. Have you ever asked the question in verse 4? If so, what was the answer you received?
3. David tells us that we have been made a little lower than the angels and crowned with glory and honor. How do we use our position for good and not for evil?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. If the opening line of Psalm 8 is true then how should we live to reflect that to the world?
2. David looks at all of creation and finds that humanity is very small in comparison and yet marvels that we still matter to God. This reality moved David to praise, what is your response?

3. We have been crowned with the glory and honor of God. What actions can you take this week to show the world how you are becoming more like Jesus?

Closing

Spend a few minutes praying for one another. Encourage each other to find ways to show the world that we believe who we are is most closely aligned with who Jesus is and that we are working daily to better reflect him.

Reminder: We did not come into this world by chance or happenstance and our true identity is defined and refined by Jesus. It is to him and him alone that we ultimately belong and he gives us our story and the lens through which to understand it.