

OUTLINE OF EACH NORTH STAR GROUP MEETING

- Start each group on time
- 10 minutes: each person has 2 minutes to share how their past week went, including a report on their weekly practice (in Week 1, we will not discuss this)
- 40 minutes: discuss the content from that week
- 10 minutes: Close in prayer, praying over the specific concepts of the group

WEEK 5 – BIG IDEAS

In Week 5, we continue on the theme that God is more committed to us than we are to him. We discover this because he gave us a new identity in Christ.

- Day 1 (I AM: New In Christ): Every Christian is “In Christ”. This means that, as followers of Jesus, we have the same privileges as Jesus does.
- Day 2 (I AM: Chosen In Christ): God chose us before the foundations of the world.
- Day 3 (I AM: Justified In Christ): God has made us completely righteous in Christ.
- Day 4 (I AM: Whole In Christ): God has given us all we need for life and godliness in Christ.
- Day 5: (Hungering For God): Learning the practice of fasting.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Have you had a chance to share about Jesus with the one or two friends you selected over the past week?**
 - *If not, encourage them to make plans to do so this week.*
2. **If you were to look at our culture today, what do you think are things people find their identity and status in?**
 - *Can be a variety of things but some examples can be approval from others, wealth, appearance, a loving relationship, success, status, career, their achievements, opinions of others, pleasure and comfort, possessions, spirituality, etc.*
3. **Why do you think it is important where people acquire their identity from?**
 - *Our identity defines who we are. It determines how we act, think, relate, plan, influence and live. What we believe about God and ourselves affects every area of our life. Everyone determines their identity from something, so we need to truly understand where our own identity is originating from.*

4. **What did you learn about being “In Christ” this week? How does thinking about your identity as being united to Christ change things for you?**
 - *To be “in Christ” means that we are connected to Christ just like a branch is connected to a tree. Every ounce of spiritual blessing we receive is from our connection to Christ.*
 - *The phrase “in Christ” is the most common way to refer to followers of Jesus in the New Testament. The apostle Paul used it 164 times.*
 - *My primary identity is that I am a new creation in Christ. More than anything I believe about myself and more than anything someone else says about me, the most important thing about myself is that I am united to Christ.*

5. Consider the following things we learned about our identity in Christ this week: I am a son or daughter, I am chosen, I am justified, I am whole. **Which of these spoke to you the most this week? Which is the most difficult for you to truly believe?**

6. **Are there areas of your life you have been pulling your identity from instead of from what Jesus has said about you?**

7. **How can you continually remind yourself about your identity in Christ?**

8. There are three other sources where we can get our identity besides God: Our own desires, the devil, and the world around us. **How can we learn to differentiate between God’s voice and other voices in our lives when it comes to our identity?**
 - *My feelings do not have anything to do with the truth of the identity I have in Christ. I must learn to trust God’s truth, not my emotions.*

9. Close by discussing Fasting.
 - **Have you ever fasted before?**
 - **Do you have any concerns or questions about fasting?**
 - *Pick a day as a group and fast and seek God during that day. (I would advise a 24 hour fast: from sundown to sundown, or from dinner to dinner)*