

Identity in Christ - Study Guide

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Series Study Guide

IDENTITY IN CHRIST - STUDY GUIDE

A 2-Session Small Group Series

SERIES OVERVIEW

CENTRAL THEME

Who are you, really? Not what you do, not what others say about you, and not what your past says about you. This series invites you to discover and walk in the identity God has already given you through Jesus Christ. The cross did not just forgive your sins - it completely repositioned you. You are seated with Christ, secure in Him, and equipped to live from that place of confidence every single day.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS WILL GAIN

- A clearer, scripture-grounded understanding of who they are in Christ
- Practical tools for speaking and living out that identity in everyday life
- Freedom from guilt, shame, inferiority, and fear
- A renewed sense of security that is not built on circumstances, performance, or the opinions of others

WHO THIS SERIES IS FOR

This series is for anyone who has ever felt like they do not quite measure up - or who knows the right answers about faith but still struggles to feel them in their bones. Whether you are brand new to faith or have been walking with Jesus for decades, there is always more of your true identity to receive and live out. Come as you are, bring your honest questions, and be ready to go deeper.

SESSION 1: BENEFITS OF BEING IN CHRIST

Speaker: Pastor Mirek Hufton

Date: April 8, 2026

OPENING REFLECTION QUESTION

Think of a time when you were entitled to something - a benefit, a right, a gift - but did not actually use it or enjoy it. What kept you from it?

Take a few minutes to share with the group before diving into Scripture.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- Galatians 2:20
- Hebrews 10:12
- Ephesians 2:6
- Colossians 1:13-14
- Romans 8
- 1 John 4:4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Mirek opened with the Easter declaration, "It is finished." What does that phrase mean to you personally? Do you tend to live like the work is truly finished, or does it sometimes feel like there is still something left for you to earn or prove?
2. Hebrews 10:12 tells us that after offering one perfect sacrifice, Jesus sat down. What does it mean to you that Jesus sat down? How does that picture change the way you think about your standing before God?
3. Ephesians 2:6 says that we are seated with Christ - right now, not someday. What emotions or reactions come up when you hear that? Does it feel true to you? Why or why not?
4. Pastor Mirek described the challenge of making what is legally true become vitally real in daily life. What is the difference between something being legally true and something being vitally real? Where do you notice that gap in your own faith walk?
5. On a mission trip to Papua New Guinea, exhausted and surrounded by difficult circumstances, Pastor Mirek had to speak the Word over himself before he could preach. Why do you think speaking truth out loud matters? Have you ever tried declaring scripture over yourself? What was that experience like?
6. Colossians 1:13-14 says believers have already been delivered from the dominion of darkness - past

tense, done. Does your daily life reflect someone who has been relocated into a new kingdom? What might need to shift in your thinking or habits to line up with that reality?

7. Pastor Mirek said, "Jesus sat down so you could stand up." What does standing up look like practically in your life this week - at work, at home, in relationships, in your own thought life?

PERSONAL APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose one truth about your identity in Christ from the scriptures covered in this session. Write it down on a card or in your phone. Read it out loud every morning and every night for the next seven days. Notice what changes - in your thoughts, your confidence, and how you respond to difficult moments.

Suggested scriptures to start with:

- I have been delivered from darkness and brought into God's kingdom. (Colossians 1:13)
- I am seated with Christ, completely righteous before God. (Ephesians 2:6)
- Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

CLOSING PRAYER PROMPT

Invite someone in the group to close in prayer, or use these prompts to guide a group prayer:

- Thank God that the work of the cross is finished and complete
- Ask the Holy Spirit to make what is legally true become vitally real in each person's everyday life
- Pray for boldness to stand up in the identity Jesus purchased for the group

SESSION 2: OUR SECURITY IS FOUND IN CHRIST

Speaker: Pastor Mirek Hufton
Date: April 1, 2026

OPENING REFLECTION QUESTION

Where do you tend to look for security? Think about things like relationships, achievement, financial stability, approval from others, or reputation. Be honest - this is a safe space.

Share briefly before moving into the scriptures.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- Philippians 2:5
- Galatians 2:20
- 1 Corinthians 13:11
- Hebrews 12:2
- Matthew 6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Mirek opened by being transparent about his own ongoing struggles with insecurity. How did it impact you to hear a pastor be that honest? Why do you think it is sometimes hard for Christians to admit they still struggle with things like insecurity or fear?
2. First Corinthians 13:11 talks about putting away childish things. Pastor Mirek connected childish responses to fear, self-centeredness, and unforgiveness. Which of those three do you find most difficult to move beyond? What tends to trigger that response in you?
3. Philippians 2:5 calls us to have the mind of Christ. Galatians 2:20 says Christ lives in us. If those things are true, what does it look like practically to access that mind and that life in a moment when you feel insecure, threatened, or overlooked?
4. Jesus is described in this message as the ultimate model of security - unshaken, outward-focused, and grounded in His God-given mission. Think about a specific situation you are facing right now. What would it look like to respond to that situation the way Jesus would?
5. The story of Bishop Rick Thomas is remarkable - after a trusted person stole nearly two million dollars and caused seven hundred families to leave his church, he never stopped declaring God's faithfulness. He eventually received a twenty-eight million dollar building for a fraction of its value. What stands out most to you from that story? Do you believe that kind of steadfastness is possible for you? What would it require?
6. Pastor Mirek emphasized that true security is received through Christ, confessed through faith-filled words, and demonstrated through radical forgiveness and servant-hearted living. Which of those three - receiving, confessing, or demonstrating - is the hardest step for you right now? Why?
7. Matthew 6 and Hebrews 12:2 both point to keeping our eyes fixed - on God's provision and on Jesus. What are the biggest distractions right now that are pulling your eyes away from Christ as the source of your

security?

PERSONAL APPLICATION CHALLENGE

Think of one relationship or situation where you have been holding onto hurt, disappointment, or unforgiveness - even quietly. This week, take one intentional step toward releasing it. That might mean praying a blessing over the person who hurt you, writing a letter you do not necessarily send, or simply choosing out loud every day to forgive.

Pair up with someone in your group to check in on this before your next gathering or at the end of the week. You do not have to share all the details - just whether you took the step.

CLOSING PRAYER PROMPT

Invite someone in the group to close in prayer, or use these prompts to guide a group prayer:

- Thank God that our security does not depend on circumstances staying stable or people staying faithful
- Ask for the courage to forgive radically and serve generously even when it is hard
- Pray for each person to receive a deeper, settled confidence in Christ that no situation can shake

SERIES WRAP-UP QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help your group reflect on both sessions together and draw the big themes into a single conversation.

1. Over the course of these two sessions, what is the single most important truth about your identity in Christ that landed differently for you - something you knew in your head but are now beginning to receive in a deeper way?
2. Session 1 focused on the benefits of being in Christ - righteousness, freedom, and a new position before God. Session 2 focused on security - living from a grounded, unshakable place in Christ. How do those two ideas connect? Can you have one without the other?
3. Both sessions highlighted the power of speaking truth out loud - Pastor Mirek declaring the Word before

preaching in Papua New Guinea, and Bishop Rick declaring God's faithfulness through devastating loss. Has your view of spoken declaration changed through this series? What would it look like to make that a more consistent practice in your life?

4. Think back to the opening question from Session 2 - where do you tend to look for security? Has your answer changed at all, or become clearer, after going through this series together?

5. If someone who had never read the Bible asked you to explain in plain language what it means to be in Christ, what would you say now, after these two sessions, that you might not have said before?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the staggering gift of identity You have given us in Christ. You did not just forgive us - You relocated us. You seated us. You placed Your own Spirit inside us and called us righteous, secure, and loved.

We confess that we have not always lived like that is true. We have looked for security in the wrong places. We have let guilt and shame and fear have a louder voice than Your Word. We have known the benefits of being in Christ in our heads without always walking in them with our feet.

So today we make a fresh choice. We choose to receive what You have already given. We choose to speak what You say is true about us, even when our feelings disagree. We choose to forgive the way we have been forgiven, and to serve others from the overflow of what Christ has placed in us.

Make these truths vitally real in each person who has gone through this study. Let it show in how they face hard days, how they treat difficult people, and how they speak about themselves. Let the world around them see people who know who they are and whose they are.

Jesus, You sat down because the work is finished. Help us to stand up and walk in everything that cost You.

In Your name, amen.

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A resource for small group communities
