



IDENTITY IN CHRIST LEADER GUIDE

Lesson for use in class. This is not a handout.

You will need Handouts A-D mentioned below to complete this lesson.

Assign Handout A before class – ask them to read and meditate on each scripture

You will need to gather the craft items listed and bring to class or have the individuals bring.

- Picture Frame (8x10 is best) Have them purchase something they want to put up in their home.
- Glue sticks
- Craft Paper – cut to fit into the 8x10 picture frame
- Scissors (use craft scissors too)
- Handout C – leader to give out - Words from “I am”
- Handout D – for the back of the frame

- Read aloud, slowly and then discuss:

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect....1 Corinthians 15:10, NIV

- Read this devotion from Oswald Chambers aloud to the group:

The way we continually talk about our own inabilities is an insult to our Creator. To complain over our incompetence is to accuse God falsely of having overlooked us. Get into the habit of examining from God’s perspective those things that sound so humble to men. You will be amazed at how unbelievably inappropriate and disrespectful they are to Him. We say things such as, “Oh, I shouldn’t claim to be sanctified; I am not a saint”. But to say that before God means, “No, Lord, it is impossible for you to save and sanctify me; there are opportunities I have not had and so many imperfections in my brain and body; no Lord, it isn’t possible”. That may sound wonderfully humble to others, but before God it is an attitude of defiance.

Conversely, the things that sound humble before God may sound exactly opposite to people. To say, “Thank God, I know I am saved and sanctified” is in God’s eyes the purest expression of humility. It means you have so completely surrendered yourself to God that you know He is true. Never worry about whether what you say sounds humble before others or not. But always be humbled before God and allow Him to be your all in all.

There is only one relationship that really matters, and this is your personal relationship with your personal Redeemer and Lord. If you maintain that at all cost, letting everything else go, God will fulfill His purpose through your life. One individual life may be of priceless value to God's purpose, and yours may be that life.

- Tell them these reflection questions:
 1. Does God want you to change the way you think about yourself?
 2. Will you concentrate on your relationship with Him and accept what He is offering?
 3. Will you begin to pray and believe that what God says about you is true?
- Slowly read this to them while their eyes are closed.

When I look at you I smile, and I want you to know that! There is not a person, living or dead, for whom, Jesus did not die. "I forgive you, I forgive you", whispers the cross through eternity.

I have called you by name, from the very beginning. You are mine and I am yours. You are my Beloved, on you my favor rests. I have molded you from the depths of the earth and knitted you together in your mother's womb. I have carved you in the palms of my hands and hidden you in the shadow of my embrace. Has it crossed your mind that I am proud you and have accepted the gift of faith I have offered you? Proud that you have freely chosen me, after I have chosen you, as your friend and Lord? Proud that with all your warts and wrinkles you haven't given up? I never expected that you would be perfect.

I love you! I love you! I love you! Nothing can ever change that."

- Ask them to READ the "I AM" (Handout A) page to themselves. (They should have read and meditated on this before coming to class.) Say the first name word. Whisper it to self.
Examples: "I am accepted. I am made in His image. Etc..."
- Ask them to BE STILL AND ASK Him to reveal to themselves the "lies about yourself that you came to this class believing... but now know are NOT TRUE of you. (Even though you may "feel" they are still true, you are willing to put your trust and identity in God and who HE SAYS you are IN HIM!).
- Distribute Handout B and have them complete the "I am" questions individually.

- Ask them to REFLECT upon their answers from handout B and LISTEN to what God is saying to them. If time allows discuss questions 3 and 4 as a group.
- Review Ephesians 4:20-24 and ask for faith to BELIEVE.
- Read these words to them:

What God says about you is a gift. Have you ever thought about accepting that gift? Here is what we know about gifts.

Gifts have nothing to do with the merit of the receiver. If you work for something, you do not receive a gift, you receive rightful wages. When you give a gift, you are saying: "You did not earn this and I do not owe you this. But, I want to give it to you, **because I love you.**"

Your identity is a gift from God: for you, from God and would not be possible without the gift of Jesus. Accept it, Believe it, LIVE it.

- Group Prayer – Say a group prayer aloud that reminds them that we cannot control our thinking without the help of Christ. That He must work in us to believe these things. It is not our will that has to change but our mind that He is renewing. Ask for His help to accept, believe and live our true identity.
- Complete craft in remaining class time. This is a word picture of what God says about us.

Craft Steps:

- Cut out the words that God says about you (Handout C) and put them on the paper to fit into the picture frame.
- PUT THE ONES THAT ARE HARDEST TO BELIEVE ON FIRST (Pray while you do it)
- Use all the words on your frame
- Remember, you are creating a word picture about yourself. Add creative elements like stickers, drawing, backings.
- On the back of the frame, cut and glue Handout D – which reminds us that it is from God and the scripture. Write your name in the blank line reminding you this is to you from God.
- Look at it daily and see yourself as God sees you.

Example:



Works Cited

Chambers, Oswald. "My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers." *My Utmost For His Highest*. N.p., Nov. 2009.

Smith, James Bryan. *Embracing the Love of God: The Path and Promise of Christian Life*. San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 2008.