

BECOME *Disciples*

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Session: The First Mark of a Disciple:
Loving God

IDENTITY Participant Guide

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Become Disciples: IDENTITY

Session: The First Mark of a Disciple: Loving God

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Scripture quotations are from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB).



1. Getting Started: Who Are You to God?

Most of us believe the story. Jesus died for the sins of the world. We nod. We agree. But it is hard to believe what that means for us.

For most people, the real question is not, “Did Jesus die?” The real question is, “Did He die for me? Am I worth that? Does His love really reach me?”

That is a question about identity. Until we answer it, God’s love will feel like a story about someone else.

Key Question: Who are you to God?

2. Your New Name

“For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children.” Romans 8:15-16 CSB.

When you believe in your heart and say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. Not later. Right away.

In that moment, **you become a child of God.**

This is not a reward for good Christians. **Being His child is where you start, not something you earn. Your name now is Child of God. Not worker. Not guilty. Child.**

3. Where Your Identity Comes From

The world gives us two answers about who we are.

The West says: you are your choices, what you do, and how you feel.

The East says: you are your family. Your last name decides who you are.

If your identity comes from yourself, your mistakes and your pain will tell you who you are. If your identity comes from your family, you are stuck with a name you did not choose.

The Bible says: you belong to the family of God.

That name does not change when you fail. It does not change because of what happened to you. Your identity stays.

4. Who You Really Are

You are a spirit, with a mind, living in a body.

You are not what your body is doing.

You are not what you have done, or what was done to you.

You are not how you feel today.

God made you new on the inside. **That is the real you.**

Before you are a plumber, a carpenter, or a lawyer. Before you are single or married. Before you are a man or a woman.

Key Thought: You are a child of God. That comes first.

5. Two Ways to Live

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 CSB.

There are two ways people try to live.

Religion: What I do → Who I am → Hoping God loves me

The Gospel: God loves me → Who I am → What I do

From the outside, both can look the same. But the reason is completely different. One person is working hard to get love. The other person is living from love they already have.

6. Nothing to Earn

You cannot make God love you more. You cannot make God love you less. He just loves you.

You already have peace. Now you are learning to rest in it.

You already have joy. Now you are learning to enjoy it.

God has already made you holy. Now you are learning to live that way.

Remember the adopted boy. He cleaned the house every morning because he was afraid his new family would not keep him. But his father said:

“You do not have to work to become my son. You are already my son.”

Key Thought: You are not climbing up to reach God. You are coming home to Him.

7. Take Away

God already loves you. He proved it at the cross, before you cleaned anything up. Knowing who you are helps you receive His love.

So do not let the wrong things tell you who you are.

You are not your sickness or your body.

You are not your past.

You are not what other people did to you.

You are not how you feel today.

You are a child of God. First. It is already yours, and it is yours to keep.

This is where discipleship begins:

Identity → Repentance → Obedience

Revelation → Restoration → Expression

Personal Reflection

Take time to pray and answer honestly.

1. Look back: What has shaped how you see yourself the most: what you have done, what was done to you, or what God says about you?

2. Let go: What wrong thing have you allowed to tell you who you are? (your body, your past, what others did to you, or how you feel)

3. Live as: Where have you been living like a worker trying to earn God's love? What would change this week if you lived as His child?

Your Next Step: Complete the Identity Assessment, then meet with your disciple-maker to talk about what God is showing you.

Closing Prayer

Father,
Thank You for loving me first.
I stop trying to earn Your love.
I receive it.
I am Your child,
not because of what I have done,
but because of what Jesus did.
Help me live as Your child every day.
Amen.

