Believe Week 5

Identity in Christ

**Key Verse**

John 1:12

*“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*

**Key Idea**

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God

**Group Discussion**

Four Key Statements About Our Identity in Christ

* I believe God loves me; therefore my life has value
* I believe that I exist to know, love, and serve God
* I believe God loves me, even when I do not obey him
* I believe I am forgiven and accepted by God

Which of these four key statements are easy for you to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

Where else in your life is it tempting to find your value? Why do we seek our identity there?

How does understanding our identity in Christ change the way we interact with the people in our lives?

**Luke 19:1-10**

*Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.*

*5When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.*

*7All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”*

*8But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”*

*9Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

In what ways did Zacchaeus’ conduct change when Jesus restored his identity?

If you could “start over” with a new identity as Zacchaeus did, what would you leave in your past?

How does our identity in Christ free us to live without fear or anxiety?