



Divinely Driven Ministry

Divinely Chosen

July 20, 2024

www.divinelydrivenministry.com

Published by Divinely Driven Ministry, Inc., 2021

Spring Hill, FL 34610
divinelydrivenministry.com

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Today's Schedule

10:45-11	Registration
11-11:30	Food, beverages, photo time, table time
11:30-11:45	Welcome, Prayer, Schedule
11:45-12:15	Your Identity in Jesus
12:15 - 12:30	Break
12:30-12:55	Spiritual Habits
12:55 - 1:00	Raffle
1:00-1:30	Breakout Session
1:30-1:35	Raffle
1:35-1:45	Testimony
1:45-2:00	Prayer, Dismiss

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Colossians 3:12

Session 1: Identity 101

Who am I?

Voices for your Attention:

Social Media

- Events
- Looks
- Status

Opinions

- Friends
- Family
- Teachers

School

- Grades
- Clubs
- Sports

It can be easy to hear others above the voice of God. All of it makes you feel like you are missing the mark.

At times, it may be tempting to conform our thoughts and views of ourselves to what we see and hear from others - good, bad, or indifferent.

In a sea of confusing voices and opinions, there is only one voice that offers the true and right answer to the critical question: Who am I?

Take a few minutes to write down what you believe to be true about who you are and what defines you today:

Who am I? _____

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen,[d] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

What words/descriptions did you read?

Whose am I?

This is not a one-time question for most of us. Throughout life we can find ourselves questioning - yet again - who am I, and what have I allowed to influence my life over the voice of God?

The living God has given us His Word and Spirit. And He has told us who we are in Christ.

JESUS alone has the final word on who we are:

NOT

- Social media feed
- Latest success or failure
- Grades
- Friends (non friends)
- Sports

Why is it important to believe what Jesus says?

- As followers of Jesus, we know that God is our **identity-maker** and **shaper**.

How do we know?

- His **Word** is the very place we find our **identity defined**.

The life **God** has purposed for **YOU** is:

- Righteous
- Holy
- Beautiful
- His glory

We have to know what God says and BELIEVE it. Knowing is one thing, but what we believe about ourselves will determine the direction of our lives.

Knowing and Believing:

This is powerful and true. We can know all day long, but only once these truths take root in our heart to the point that we believe will our words, thoughts and actions begin to manifest and reflect the beauty of our identity, straight from Scripture and the **Heart of God!**

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

What does this say about who you belong to?

Ask God to enlighten the eyes of your heart to see, know, and believe!

When Life Gets Hard!

Difficult circumstances can rock our world. They can equally rock how we view ourselves. Have you ever found yourself in a tough situation where someone in your life, friends, family, mother, father, church-whatever - begins to chip away at your identity?

LIES you begin to believe:

- I'm a Failure
- Not good enough
- I will never make it
- I'm not pretty enough
- I'm not strong enough
- This is too hard
- This is not fair
- No one likes me
- It's my fault

If we're not careful, when life gets hard it can begin to invade our confidence in who we are in Christ and lead us to question if it is actually, really true.

But it IS the other way around.

When we stand firmly in the truth of who we are in Christ, our circumstances no longer have an upper hand.

Instead, our **identity in Christ redefines** our circumstances!

The Apostle Paul:

Despite being imprisoned on a couple of different occasions and being rejected by close friends, the apostle Paul never lost sight of Whom he belonged to and what he was called to do. His perspective on his circumstances was defined by his identity in Christ! Because of that, he was able to stand firm, even in prison, and maximize each situation as a new opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

Jesus:

Jesus was rejected, not only by one of His own (Judas) but by the very people who claimed God (Pharisees) who ultimately killed Him. Jesus understands it ALL!

When our feet are firmly planted and our roots are deep in Truth:

- Better prepared to rise above the noise
- Embrace all of life with a new perspective.
- Who we are in Christ and what we have to offer (Jesus)
-

Jesus will always positively impact our everyday life!

This is hard in my life right now:

Colossians 3:12-14

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Jesus is with me because:

Identity Theft:

When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we are:

- A new creation
- Transformed
- New Life
- New Identity
- New identity with responsibility
- New ENEMY

We have an enemy who would love nothing more than to:

- Discourage us
- Cause us to doubt God’s love for us

Distract us with lies about who we are

He deposits lies into our minds in hopes of causing us to question if what God has said is really true.

We need to be wise to the schemes of Satan and do as Ephesians 6 instructs us to do - put on the full armor of God.

Why?

So that we can stand. But not just stand... we can stand firm!

Standing firm requires a regular assessment of our armor. As you read today's Scripture, ask the Holy Spirit to show you where there might be weak points in your armor (a few of those being the helmet of salvation – guards the mind, shield of faith – a protective barrier against Satan's schemes, belt of truth – guards our inmost being, and the breastplate of righteousness – guards us against anything that comes against the knowledge of God). Ask Him to teach you how to be more alert to the ways the enemy may be trying to come against your identity.

It takes being alert and wielding prayer and the Word as our weapons to truly guard our identity from the enemy. It takes guarding our heart, our soul, and our mind!

What lies have you believed?

(Save for your break out)

I am Equipped!

It's essential for us to believe the truth as outlined by God alone and what He victoriously declares about who we are in Christ:

You are:

- Accepted
- Chosen
- Loved
- Holy
- Blameless
- Redeemed
- Made New
- Purposed
- Free

Each of these words could take a lifetime of seeking, learning and trusting God to help us fully grasp the power of each of these descriptions of who we are!

We have been empowered to overcome sin and equipped to make changes in our lives because of what Jesus has done for us and who we are as a result. Without this knowledge, it's far too easy to struggle with trying to define and live out our true identities in our own power. But with our identity in Christ, we have everything we need to completely transform our purpose and the direction for our lives!

Our God is the God of the immeasurably more. All-powerful, and always at work within us to bring about His best for us, for our good and His glory.

Ephesians 3:20

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”

He is inexhaustible in riches and mercy. Whatever you ask, expect that He will do that and more!

Break
(15 min)

Session 2: Spiritual Habits

The Gift of God's Word

WHAT

John 3:16 God's gifts to us: Jesus

His Word (The Bible)

John 1:1, 14 Jesus is the Word made flesh

Psalms 12:6 God's Word is true, flawless

WHY

Would you pass by a wrapped gift each day without opening it?

Tells us who God is

Tells us who we are

2 Timothy 3:16-17 teaches, corrects, rebukes, trains

To grow our relationship with the God of the Universe, who longs to be with us.

HOW

Six Habits of being in God's Word – (handout attached)

Associated with parts of the body because this is how God's Word gets into us and transforms us from the inside → out!

Hebrews 4:12

WHEN:

Give God the first part of your day; give God your BEST!

WHERE

Choose a quiet place *free of distractions* where you can meet with God and open the gift that He has for you in His word daily.

Six Habits of being in God's Word

Reading

Revelation 1:3

God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

Action: Ask God what He wants to show you and teach you. Ask Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read your Bible. Commit to reading a few verses a day or a chapter a day.

Hearing

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Action: Ask God to increase your faith as you hear His word. Listen to your scripture on *Streetlights* audio Bible app or read the scripture aloud to yourself. Listen to a message or a podcast on your Bible passage; Listen to your passage on *YouVersion* Bible app; listen to *Through the Word* app to read the scripture to you and provide chapter-by-chapter audio commentary.

Memorizing

Psalms 119:11

*I have hidden your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.*

Action: Ask God to highlight a verse to you from your reading to memorize. *The Bible Memory App* or *Verses App* or *Scripture Singer App*; write your verse on an index card or sticky note; write or post it on your mirror; add to wallpaper on your phone; make it visible!

Studying

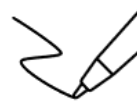


2 Timothy 2:15

Study to show yourself approved by God, a workman who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Action: Ask God for His insight as you study your passage. Use a Bible commentary, dictionary, study bible, *TheBibleProject.com*; *Blue Letter Bible* app or website; *BibleStudyTools.com*; *GotQuestions.org*

Meditating



Psalm 1:2

But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.

Action: Journal – paper or digital journal - *Day One App*; personalize your verse; ask yourself and ask God questions about your verse; answer in your journal; what does it mean? What does it mean to me? What does it reveal to me about God? About myself? Do I need to repent or confess any sin? What do I need to start doing? What do I need to stop doing?

Applying



James 1:22

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

Action: Meet with the Lord each day and do what He says in His word. Obedient action is the final step in causing God's Word to come to life in our lives as He transforms us from the inside out!

Session 3: Table Discussions

1. Is it difficult to view the Bible as gifts God wants to give to you?
2. Which of the six spiritual habits do you need more understanding?
3. Who can you bring in with you as you commit to being in God's Word? (name)
4. What did you learn about who you are today?
5. What lies have you believed?
(Write down on post it note, and place on the cross)

Testimony: Angie Kozlow
