

Small Group Discussion Questions

Spirit and Truth: Rediscovering Christian Worship

These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.

Week 3: Called and Loved

Jude 1:1-2

1. Reflect on something you were told at a young age that significantly influenced the way you saw yourself (and perhaps continue to see yourself).
2. Jude begins his letter with a personal introduction. What two things does he say about himself? What does this communicate about a. Who he is; b. What he considers most important about himself? What do we know about Jude that he leaves out of his introduction? What might others consider significant about this?
3. Jude's audience includes Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. Based on what you have observed about cross-cultural relationships and multi-cultural communities, what problems might have arisen in the early church? What benefits might have come from new Christians being immersed in a new, multicultural "family"?
4. What are some of the factors that form a person's identity? Name some of the factors that contribute to your sense of who you are (e.g., ethnicity, gender, family heritage, occupation, etc.). What do you consider the most defining part of your identity?
5. Have you experienced a threat to your identity, prejudice based on your identity, or the loss of something that once defined your image or sense of who you are? What impact did that have on your life? How did you redefine your identity?
6. God's greeting, as illustrated in Jude 1:1-2, presents a new foundation for every Christian's identity. What are the three characteristics of this new identity? What do you think of when you hear these terms/phrases? Can you think of an example from your own life in which one of these three characteristics felt *true* for you? What made it feel that way? Can you think of any Bible stories or passages that support these three claims about you as a Christian?
7. God's greeting also spells out three consequences or blessings that result from our new identity in Christ. What are they? Can you think of a time in which you experienced *mercy*? Can you share an illustration of what true *love* looks like? Have you experienced peace, and if so, under what conditions?

Pray: Ask God to convince you that the words of His greeting are true for you. Invite the Holy Spirit to rebuild your identity on the foundation of being Called by God; Loved by your Heavenly Father; and kept for Jesus Christ. Ask God to give you His peace.