

SESSION 5:

IDENTITY IN CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Welcome, Prayer & Review of LIFE Starter Journaling: 5 minutes
Session #5 Teaching: Identity & The Holy Spirit: 10 minutes

I hope you have a better understanding of your full identity in Christ and how the acceptance of that identity can also make your marriage more fulfilling. Our identity in Christ comes with a “Helper!” John 16:7 explains, “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

The Holy Spirit’s works through the New Covenant! The Holy Spirit is Christ’s gift to the church (see John. 14-16), and the distinctive mark of the New Covenant, as explained in Ezekiel 36:27, “And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” According to Jesus, in John 14:12 (John 14:12, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”), the gift of the Spirit makes possible a life of greater spiritual vitality than was available to Old Covenant believers, including the disciples when they were in the physical presence of Christ (see John 16:7). In general, the Father initiates and oversees his plan of redemption, the Son accomplishes it, and the Holy Spirit applies the benefits of Christ’s redemptive work to believers (as explained in Ephesians 1:14; 2 Corinthians 5:5). That is, the Holy Spirit provides the present tangible evidence of the believers’ future full salvation when they are glorified. The Holy Spirit personally communicates the presence of Christ to believers and through them to the church and the world.

So, you may be thinking, “What does the Holy Spirit and my identity in Christ have to do with my marriage?” The Holy Spirit **is the seal** of your marriage covenant, the **ever available** source of love and strength to constantly renew your bond. The Holy Spirit gives couples the help needed to live out the sacrament of matrimony. Without His grace and His help, we cannot be Christ to our spouse. We are fallen, self-centered, and broken people. We need God’s grace to experience the fruits of the Spirit in our marriages and families. Without grace, we fail to be the persons God has called us to be. Galatians 5:22-23 reminds us, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” When YOU review this list, are YOU living these “fruits” out each day in your marriage? If there are times when you feel that you cannot demonstrate these fruits to your family, STOP and PRAY for the Holy Spirit to give you the help and grace to react as Christ in the situation. Jesus tells us “Ask, and it will be given you” (Matthew 7:7). When you are not your best, ask for an out-pouring of the Holy Spirit to give you the help and grace to be more Christ-like in your words and actions. He is an ever available source of help. We are to be channels of the Holy Spirit, allowing the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow out to others. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be more present in your marriage and look for signs of the Holy Spirit’s work in your lives. He is the ever-available source of love and strength for your marriage.

Be honest, if left up to you to try and create those fruits of the Spirit on your own, how far do you think you’ll get?! If you’re like me, not far. I NEED God’s help and He gives it through the Holy Spirit. You can, because He will!

Marriage is the way for us, as Christians, to live out God’s covenant for ALL to see—for better or for worse, for the whole of life. Allow your identity in Christ and your Helper (The Holy Spirit) to give you the grace and strength to keep YOUR PROMISE and live out your vows.

Small Group Discussion: 25 minutes

- What did you find out about your Identity in Christ? How does that apply to your marriage?
- Re-read Galatians 5:22-23. When YOU review this list, are YOU living these “fruits” out each day in your marriage? Discuss together how you can improve.

Small Group Wrap-Up: 15 minutes

What were the biggest take-aways and action items? Group Discussion: 15 minutes

Homework: 5 minutes

- Discuss Galatians 5:22-23 together again and talk more about living these “fruits” out each day in your marriage. Discuss together how you can improve.

SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 1

Read Matthew 6:19-34

God is the provider. Try to engulf Matthew 6:31 in your regiment of money management.

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 2

Read Luke 6:37-49

As a Christian, it's important to remember that God provides you with the strength to work each day therefore, it's only right to give back to the church and to charities that have the intent to better the world.

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SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 3

Read Proverbs 21

Christians should be able to see the bigger picture and identify what saving a little money each month can equate to.

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F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

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SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 4

Read Proverbs 24

Finally, money management is essential in Christian homes – especially the Biblical aspect that’s associated with budgeting. It’s important to remember God’s wisdom in everything we do – especially finances!

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I = Investigate the context around today’s Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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