



LifeGroup Curriculum

“Who are you? In our teenage and young adult years we spend a lot of time trying to figure out who we are and what we are about. Sometimes we call this “finding ourselves.” These pursuits can lead us to create an identity that is contrary to that which God designed us for. In this sermon series we will look at the false identities we commonly grab hold onto and seek to reorient our thinking based upon biblical descriptions of our identity.. This series isn't about self-help. It isn't about self-esteem. It isn't about self-worth. It is about our declared identity, by the God who created us, our worth rooted in Him, and our role as reflections of His glory to all of creation.”

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Grab a bag of M&Ms and tell people to grab 1-4 as you pass it around but don't eat it. When everyone has some, have them answer according to each color they have:

Red: Favorite Color?

Blue: Favorite animal?

Green: Favorite Ice Cream flavor?

Orange: Favorite sport?

Brown: Favorite TV Show?

Yellow: Favorite Book of the Bible?

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 3:13-17

“13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him,[a] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son,[b] with whom I am well pleased.”

Footnotes

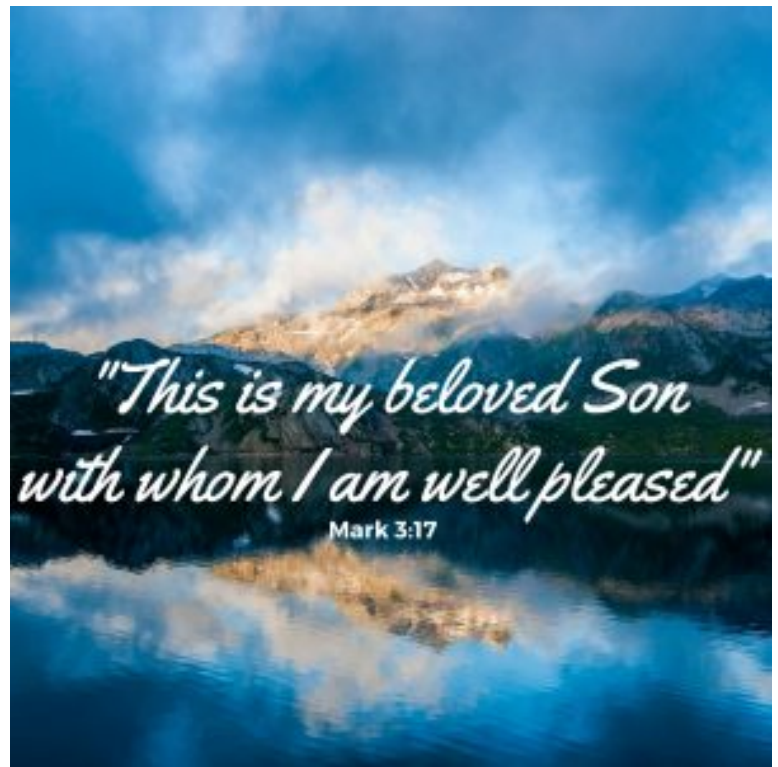
Matthew 3:16 Some manuscripts omit to him

Matthew 3:17 Or my Son, my (or the) Beloved

Rooted: Introduction

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. From whom did Jesus receive His identity? If Jesus had received His identity from other people, what might He have heard? (List all the ones you can think of)
2. Read Matthew 17:1-8. Why is this in here twice? Consider the author, the audience, the importance of identity, and the placement of this second story of the Father claiming the Son in the book of Matthew.
3. Read all the references to the baptismal event mentioned in Matthew and compare/contrast them with one another: Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22. Bonus: How did Peter interpret the purpose for this voice from heaven? (2 Peter 1:17).
4. This term “Beloved Son” is not in all of the manuscripts. Some say the Beloved, some merely say Son. Regardless of which manuscript you look at, the idea of the “beloved Son” is clearly in mind when being translated (even by our modern translators). In the Scriptures two “beloved Sons” are mentioned- in Genesis 22:2 and in Hosea 11:1. Who are these “Beloved Sons”? Why might Matthew (and transcribing scribes and translators later) desire for us to have in mind these two other “Beloved Sons”?
5. Read John’s account of Jesus’ baptism (John 1:29-34). Why is John’s account so different than the others?



APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is identity so important? Especially for those giving their lives to Christ?
2. Share some identities you have that you struggle with keeping out of the very center of your God-given identity?
3. What is it about humans that has caused us to wrestle with our identity since the garden? Why does Satan continue to go after this area of our lives?
4. From memory, what are some declared identities that God uses for His people in the Scriptures? Are any of these hard for you to believe, to embrace, to live into?
5. This week we studied Jesus’ identity and its importance for Him. Why is Jesus’ identity, rooted in His sonship to the Father so important for us as Christians?

“Friend, your mistakes don't define you any more than your victories do. You and I are defined by what God says about us (all those wonderful things in Ephesians 2!), not what the world says. When we've messed up, when we've hurt ourselves or others by our own selfishness, we should run toward God, not away from him! When we need mercy, we should go where mercy is found”

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.

-LAURA STORY