

Owning Authority

Week of November 20, 2016

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

OWNING AUTHORITY

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus is the only way we can ever know ourselves! Knowing Jesus matters. Through him we know God. Our true identity is also found in him. When we live his authority (which is the truth of God) we can change our world. Unfortunately Satan seeks to corrupt and destroy us. His goal is to steal our identity through temptation and lies. God's message to us is inspirational and he sent Christ to our world to reveal himself to us. Christ builds his church on those that understand and accept his identity - he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matt 16:16) Accepting who Jesus is changes us and our identity, giving us his authority to overcome Satan. With our new identity we live to reveal light to our world knowing we are accepted, significant, called, and that we belong. We are God's priceless possession.

Pray

Jesus, as we continually struggle with our identity, please open our hearts and minds to you and the inspirational ideas that come from you. Give us clear messages of our identity in you. We are grateful you came to show us who you are so we can know who we are in you. Give us courage through our identity in you to change the world around us.

Getting Started

- What are your observations or experiences with sin as being "fun" for a season?
- Satan works to destroy and corrupt. What messages have you heard from him during your life?

Digging Deeper

1. We all struggle with our identity, why is that?
2. What tool does Satan use to influence our lives? What can we do to combat his method?
3. Read Matthew 16:13-14. The disciples answered Christ's question with John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. What does the world today say about Christ? What are you telling the people in your life about who Christ is?
4. How does accepting our identity in Christ change us? What has changed in your life when you accepted your identity in Christ?
5. We are given God's authority to be the light to the world around us. Explain the authority we have been given and how we can use it.
6. In verse 17, Jesus tell the disciples he will build his church on "this rock". What is the rock to which Jesus is referring?
7. What darkness have you overcome or seen overcome with the authority of God through Christ? What darkness would you like to see overcome today?

Living Jesus

Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. How incredible it is when we believe this and know that we are given God's authority through our identity in Christ Jesus. When we accept our identity knowing we are welcomed, called, significant, treasured, priceless, and part of a holy nation we can then live our authority. Go and live your light and change something somewhere!