



The Big Idea

We are not just our labels. We are not just who others say we are. And we aren't the broken self-image that we often see when we look in the mirror. Our identity has been shaped by more negative things in our life than we'd care to admit, but God's power to heal is greater than Satan's power to hurt. To care for our soul, we have to let the Bible shape our identity, not the things we've been hurt by.



Tweetable Moments

"God's power to heal is greater than Satan's power to hurt"

"God knows what we need better than we know what we need."

"We can't hate others and love God at the same time."



Next Steps

- New to the faith? Sign up for a Start Here small group.
- How we see ourselves shapes our identity. Before going to bed tonight, write down five declarations about yourself and say them out loud each morning this week. (These can be things like different truths the bible says about us. Ex: I love others because God loves me; I can't judge how much god loves me by how bad others have treated me; etc.)

Key Verses

Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:20, Matthew 6:1, Matthew 6:7-8, Matthew 7:24-27



Discussion Questions

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word identity? What things/people/experiences do you think have formed and shaped your identity most over the years?

2. **Read Ephesians 6:1-4**

When have you found it the hardest to honor your parents? If you are a parent, what do you think verse four means by, "not provoking" our children to anger?

3. **Read Romans 5:8**

Have you ever blamed God for something others did? Why do you think we sometimes have a tendency to point the finger at God when bad things happen in our life?

4. **Read Matthew 6:1**

If we're honest, how often do you think we do good things or post good things on social media just to be seen doing them by others? How can we fight our habit of wanting others to see us doing good and praise us?

5. **Read Matthew 6:7-8**

According to this verse, we don't have to pray incredibly long or eloquent prayers to reach the heart of God, He already loves us. Without naming names, have you ever heard someone pray an extremely long or repetitive prayer? Have you ever prayed in front of others and felt like it needed to be long or eloquent?