



Sermon Discussion Guide – June 2, 2019
SERIES – POSITIVE ID – A Better Understanding Of Self
TITLE - “Where Do I Belong?”
1 Peter 2:9-12

SUMMARY – As soon we are born we begin a process of identity discovery. What we do and experience can shape us but our identity is found in who we are not just what we do. Individuation can be a confusing process but when we seek the wisdom of the Creator to understand who we are, where we belong and what our purpose is, we find a solid foundation to discover our Positive ID. This week we explore who we are as defined by our Creator.

DAILY STUDY & PRAYER

Read / Reflect / Respond

(READ the verse, take a moment to REFLECT on its meaning, RESPOND by writing down some thoughts and praying)

Monday – 1 Peter 2:9 “proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Tuesday - Colossians 1:13 “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,”

Wednesday - John 17:14 “I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

Thursday – Romans 12:5 “so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Friday – Romans 12:16 “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”

Saturday – 1 Corinthians 12:26–27 “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

GROUP DISCUSSION

(This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss or supplement with your own materials)

Open with Prayer

1. What is something you remember from the sermon that stood out to you or never heard before?
2. Do you feel like you belong in our church? How long did it take? What process did you go through before you did feel like you belonged?
3. What are some of the barriers that keep people from feeling like they belong when attending a church?
4. Whose responsibility is it to create “belonging” in the church? What part if any is the responsibility of someone who is new?

Close with prayer requests and prayer

NEXT STEPS (Optional for group discussion)

1. TEMPERATURE GAUGE – How am I doing when it comes to feeling like I belong? How would I rate myself on a scale of 1-10?
2. RESPOND – How is the Lord calling me to respond? In confession and repentance? Prayer for help and guidance? Seeking out a confidant or listening ear? Take a moment to write down one action step.
3. PRACTICE – What is one way that you can incorporate or practice increasing your wisdom this week?



Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. ***Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group!***
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group during the next series. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives?
- ✓ **EVALUATE** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Review the discussion guide and sermon notes for this week. You can also view the sermon from our website, www.faithunitedepc.org. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group.
- Feel free to adapt the format as needed. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Next Steps section or add additional Scripture and resources. Remember this is only a guide and you don't have to complete all of it. It is a tool to promote good discussion. The goal is good discussion not necessarily getting through every question.
- The questions with Bible verses associated with them are there to encourage Bible literacy. So encourage different people to open their Bibles and read selected verses if they are willing and able.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.