



Sermon Discussion Guide – May 19, 2019
SERIES – POSITIVE ID – A Better Understanding Of Self
TITLE - “Who Is God?”
Luke 24:18-48

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 discovery starts with our view of who God is. Does your view of God inspire worship? Do we understand how the complexity of God is made simply accessible? This week we start with our perspective of God.

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 John 4:8 *“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*

Tuesday - Luke 24:38 *And [Jesus] said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”*

Wednesday - Isaiah 46:9 *“I am God, and there is none like me,”*

Thursday – Isaiah 55:9 *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Friday – Job 26:14 *“Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?”*

Saturday – Psalm 8:3–4 *“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”*

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. Is there a boundary that you have placed around God to make him more comfortable or familiar? Did something shake up that boundary?
3. Does the complexity of God create a sense of “awe” or a sense of “doubt” in your spirit?
4. What inspires you to worship more: A simple view of God or a complex view of God?

Close with prayer requests and prayer

NEXT STEPS (Optional for group discussion)

1. TEMPERATURE GAUGE – How am I doing when it comes to my perspective of who God is? 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.