Family Ministry Life Group Curriculum

September 2025 - Growing

Each week that your Life Group meets, we want you to direct a conversation around Eric Geiger's book "Identity." You do not have to read the book or have a copy of it in order to direct this conversation. Below you'll find the info you need, concepts from the book and questions to get the group thinking about what it means to constantly grow and mature as a Christian.

This book is TSF's chosen book resource in the "Growing" Pathway, which can be found with other growing resources at <u>tsf-church.com</u>

Please follow this discussion guide throughout September so your Group can get the most out of each time you meet! You do NOT need a copy of the book in order to do this study; its introductory in order to pique curiosity and spur discussion about growing!

"Identity" Eric Geiger

WEEK 1

- 1- Read the following Scriptures- Colossians 1:28; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Hebrews 5:12-14. Discuss what they tell us about growing in our faith. What does the Bible mean by "maturity"? Is it hard or easy to grow in Christ? Where do you struggle to find maturity in your spiritual growth?
- 2- On page 8 of "Identity", Geiger says, "We can bounce from relationship to relationship, possession to possession or career to career in a frustrating quest for identity. Or we can embrace God's invitation to lose our lives and find our identity in Him (Mark 8:35-36)." What are some things that can make the search for identity difficult? What does Jesus tell us about who we are and how to find our identity in Mark 8:35-36?
- 3- How is identity tied to growing in Christ?
- 4- Geiger uses 1 Peter 2:9-11 as the springboard for the entire book's discussion about growth and identity. Read it with the group and see if you can name the 7 things this Scripture says about who you are in Christ. (ANS- God's child; a priest; Jesus' Bride; God's servant; God's friend; an alien; God's ambassador.)
- 5- Which of these identifiers do you readily most agree with or connect to? Which ones do you quickly realize you need to mature into- both in terms of knowledge/understanding and living them out?
- 6- Notice the last part of that 1 Peter passage: "that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." How is our growth tied to God's glory and his work to save us through Jesus?
- 7- How might your Life Group band together to better help each other be on a consistent path of growing up in Christ?

WEEK 2

1- Split the group into pairs or have each person participate on their own.

Each group/person looks up one verse below, spends some time reading and discussing it, then reports back to the group on 1) what their verse tells them about who we are in Christ and 2) how their verse helps us understand better what it means to be maturing in our application of Christianity in our lives.

2 Corinthians 6:18 Child
1 Peter 2:9 Priest
Isaiah 54:5 Bride
1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Servant
John 15:15 Friend
Hebrews 11:13 Alien

2 Corinthians 5:20 Ambassador

- 2- What did you learn from the other groups and Scriptures? Which verse do you need to commit to memory or revisit for more information/understanding?
- 3- On page 193, Geiger writes, "Ultimately, God has given you your great identity so that you will declare his praises. And not only with our lips but with your life. You honor God by living the reality of your identity.... Will you live the reality of who God has made you to be? Because of the beginning (referring to God's mercy in the Garden of Eden and at the cross of Christ), will you live out the ending (God's glory). "Live the ending."

Since the ending is God's glory- how can we start to live that out, or better live it out?

How can you start working on growing up in Christ, into your identity, in your unique context and life settings? Where are you not maturing and it is keeping you from living to God's glory?

- 4- Read and discuss this quote from Pastor Mark Dever:
- "A healthy church has a pervasive concern with church growth not simply growing numbers but growing members. A church full of growing Christians is the kind of church growth I want as a pastor. Some today seem to think that one can be a "baby Christian" for a whole lifetime. Growth is seen to be an optional extra for particularly zealous disciples. But be very careful about taking that line of thought. Growth is a sign of life. Growing trees are living trees, and growing animals are living animals. When something stops growing, it dies."
- 5- In pairs (men with men; women with women, etc), share where you intend to grow spiritually, how you intend to pursue that growth, when you intend to start, and pray with and each other that the Holy Spirit will direct and enable each of you to live for God's glory as you grow in Christ.