



Home Fellowship

LEADER GUIDE

This devotional leader guide was prepared by the
Ministry Staff of Cicero Christian Church
Tim Lueking and Ben Radant
as part of the sermon series
“Identity Theft” and the companion devotional guide for home
fellowship participants.

September 09 – October 28, 2007

visit www.CiceroChristianChurch.org for sermon notes



CICERO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*where God's
love flows
like a river*

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Overview Leader's Guide



Preparation

This “Identity Theft” Devotional Leader’s Guide is a companion to the devotional guide for your home fellowship members, prepared to work hand-in-hand with the fall sermon series September 9-October 28, 2007. Make sure you have devotional guide booklets for the people in your home fellowship. Get a few extras for the weeks when folks leave their booklet at home.

These are just some general tips and suggestions to help make your Home Fellowship experience the most effective and meaningful as possible. Fellowship leaders should pray over your group and your group meeting every day. Keep lifting the people in your group up in prayer. Contact those people during the week and let them know that you were thinking about them or just seeing how their week was going.

Thank you for being a Home Fellowship Leader. You will have a great impact on these lives as you help to build community within the group and reach out to the community around you.

Food & Fellowship

20-30 Minutes During this time, that you get to spend time with the people in your group. Usually this is not a stretch, but there might be some that might not be comfortable right away. Seek out those people and make sure they feel welcomed and accepted. Even sacrificing the time you might have liked to spend with the people you might normally talk to in the group. As far as food goes, it can be as simple as snacks like cookies and milk, or chips and pop; or as ambitious as a meal for everyone. Eating together is a simple way for the group to bond and to share. There are some optional activities for this opening segment of your meeting.

Discussion Questions

20-30 Minutes The key to this time is discussion. Your main job as the leader is to facilitate the discussion. That means when it is slow, you might interject a thought or two, but make sure it doesn't become a lecture. Remember to try and keep the group on track. Often discussions can start to drift off course and you end up talking about So-and-So's aunt who once had a puppy named Wilbur and it had three legs and once...you get the point.

Directing the Discussion Ways to steer the discussion around include: asking the question again, mention that we're getting a bit off track and need to try and come back to the original thought, ask how that directly ties in with the discussion, and to simply move on to the next question. You may have some other ideas, just remember that the person talking might actually have something to say, it just might not be the right time. Be sensitive to that.

Application

10-15 Minutes This is the time when it all comes together. You might have done a great job of applying the topic to your life during the discussion time, but it's always a great idea to debrief the group and summarize what you all talked about. This is important because simplifying the overall lesson for the night will ensure that your group will remember the wonderful discussions you had throughout the night.

Memory Work

Encourage your home fellowship to work on the memory verse during the week. You will review the following week. They don't have to say it out loud, but if your group is competitive, have a memory war competition. All memory verses are from the New International Version

Prayer

10-20 Minutes Praying together can be the one of the most meaningful time you can have as a Home Fellowship. This is where you can be real, where you can ask for specific prayer for you. I know that everyone wants to pray for everyone else's cousin Larry who's having his appendix

removed, but sometimes it can get a bit out of hand. The more real you are in sharing prayer requests for you, the more real others will be.

Prayer Time Ideas:

- Form a circle and hold hands. This brings the group literally together in prayer. If you choose to take a step further you can have the person that you are praying for in the middle of the circle.
- Break up into two groups, guys and girls. Sometimes there are things that you only feel that you can share in that type of setting.
- Have a prayer partner for the night. Guys with guys and girls with girls. This is a great way to form relationships within the group. Make sure that they call each other at least once outside of the meeting that week.
- Have the group stay together as a group, but as a prayer request is mentioned, have someone pray for that request right then.

Introduction

Reclaiming Your Identity



Discussion Questions

- Have you ever had your identity stolen? If so explain the situation.
Activity Very briefly have someone do an impression of a famous person. You may even find someone who can do a great job at it. Try and limit this activity to 5 min. tops.
- How would you feel if someone tried to do an impersonation of you? Why?
Read 2 Corinthians 5:17
- How does this verse help you to know what your identity is?
Read 1 Timothy 6:11-12
- What is the overall theme(s) of the scripture? Is the theme(s) relevant for Christians today? Why?
- How do the characteristics found in the passage strengthen your faith and bring God glory?

Application

- What have you learned about your identity this week?
Has it changed?
- Is there anything you will do differently this week?
If so what? (and be specific!)
- Make a plan on what exactly you might do this week to reclaim your identity as a Christian. Write it down and keep it in your Bible.

Memory Work

1 Timothy 6:11 “But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”

Day #1

Realization Hits



Meal Activity (optional) Get one rubber band for each of the people in your Fellowship. Tell them they are not allowed to say a certain word or words; for example: food or good. Every time they say the “forbidden” word to another in the group, they have to give them the rubber band. The person who has the most at the end of the meal time wins.

Discussion Questions

Read Romans 7:18-25

- What sins are easy to continue to do even though we know better?
Recall the game. Did you have a hard time not saying the word(s)? Why?
- Why do we continue to do those things according to the passage?
- Is there an excuse to keep on sinning? Why or why not?
(look at Romans 8)
- What kind of hope do we have according to Romans 8?
How does that make you feel?
- What part of this passage most describes you right now?
Do you want to change that?

Application

- What have you learned about your identity this week? Has it changed?
- Is there anything you will do differently this week?
If so what? (and be specific!)
- Make a plan on what exactly you might do this week to reclaim your identity as a Christian. Write it down and keep it in your Bible.

Memory Work

See if anyone remembers 1Timothy 6:11 from last week.

Romans 8:17 “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

Day #2

Claiming Your True Identity



Activity (optional) Play a good old fashioned game of “Simon Says” You can play a few practice rounds if you want and then start to play where you eliminate people.

Discussion Questions

Read John 1:12-13

- What or who is a “child of God”?
- What makes you a child of God? How does that make you feel?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be the Savior and Lord of your life
- How does it help you to understand more about being a child of God?

Read James 1:22

- As God’s children, how should we apply this verse?

Application

- What have you learned about your identity this week? Has it changed?
- Is there anything you will do differently this week?
If so what? (and be specific!)
- Make a plan on what exactly you might do this week to reclaim your identity as a Christian. Write it down and keep it in your Bible.

Memory Work

See if anyone remembers Romans 8:17 from last week.

1 John 3:1a “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

Day #3

Removing the Obstacle of Doubt



Activity (optional) I Doubt It card game. Prepare with a couple of decks of cards and the instructions that follow on page 12.

Discussion Questions

Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

- Does this passage inspire confidence or doubt? Why?
- Why do some Christians doubt their faith?
What else might Christians doubt?
- Why do some Christians doubt their salvation?
- Have you ever had a time in your life where you doubted your faith or salvation? Explain?
- How do we remove the obstacle of doubt and walk with confidence?

Application

- What have you learned about your identity this week? Has it changed?
- Is there anything you will do differently this week?
If so what? (and be specific!)
- How can you help to inspire spiritual confidence in others this week?
- Make a plan on what exactly you might do this week to reclaim your identity as a Christian. Write it down and keep it in your Bible.

Memory Work

See if anyone remembers Romans 1 John 3:1a from last week.

2 Corinthians 1:22 “He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

Day #4

The Day of Restoration is Here



Activity (optional) Have the group work on a puzzle together during the food and fellowship time. Make sure it isn't one of those 10,000 piece puzzle that will take up too much time. At the end of your allotted time, simply ask the group to leave it be. If there is time at the end you can work on it.

Discussion Questions

Read Colossians 1:21-23

- Have you ever restored something? (furniture, car, relationship, etc.) What does it take to restore something?
- How have you felt after you have restored it?
- What does it mean to be restored or reconciled by Jesus?
- What areas in your life might need to be restored?
- How does having an area that is left unattended effect a Christian's walk with the Lord?

Application

- What have you learned about your identity this week? Has it changed?
- Is there anything you will do differently this week?
If so what? (and be specific!)
- Make a plan on what exactly you might do this week to reclaim your identity as a Christian. Write it down and keep it in your Bible.

Memory Work

See if anyone remembers 2 Corinthians 1:22 from last week.

Colossians 1:22 "But now God has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation."

Day #5

Putting on Strength



Activity (optional) Lots of Olympic games are based off of war-time activities. You can have your own Mini-Olympics in your house. *Javelin*: who can toss a straw the furthest? *Discus*: who can toss a paper plate the furthest. *Balance beam*: on a rope or string. *Volleyball*: Use a balloon and a piece of string as a net, playing on your knees.

Discussion Questions

Read 2 Corinthians 3-5

- Name some examples of spiritual battles that Christians face?
- What are some weapons that Christians are to use in order to achieve victory in the spiritual battles? Explain.
- How do we capture every thought and make it obedient to Christ?

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

- How is the armor to be used? One piece at a time or all together at the same time?
- Which part of the armor do you forget to put? Why?
- Is part of our identity as Christians to be soldiers? Explain.

Application

- What have you learned about your identity this week? Has it changed?
- Is there anything you will do differently this week?
If so what? (and be specific!)
- Each day this week consciously put on each of the armor that God has given you to help win the spiritual wars you will face.
- Make a plan on what exactly you might do this week to reclaim your identity as a Christian. Write it down and keep it in your Bible.

Memory Work

See if anyone remembers Colossians 1:22 from last week.

2 Corinthians 10:5 “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

Day #6

Living Out Your New Identity



Discussion Questions

Read Ephesians 2:19-21

- Have you ever been to a country that you didn't know the language? How did it feel? Or Have you ever felt awkward or out of place? When?
- How does it feel to know that you have a place where you belong?
- What does it mean for you to be a member of God's household?
- What does it mean for God to dwell inside you? How does He do this?
- How does God living inside you affect the way you live your life?

Application

- What have you learned about your identity this week? Has it changed?
- Is there anything you will do differently this week?
If so what? (and be specific!)
- Make a plan on what exactly you might do this week to reclaim your identity as a Christian. Write it down and keep it in your Bible.

Memory Work

See if anyone remembers Colossians 2 Corinthians 10:5 from last week.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**It's not about me,
it's all about Jesus.**

I Doubt It Card Game

optional for Day #3



Players 3 to 5 players with one deck of cards. 6 to 11 players with two decks of cards. *I Doubt It* is great for children and adults to play together.

Deck One or two standard 52-card decks. With two decks, it's best (but not absolutely required) to have identical backs so that the players cannot tell them apart.

Goal Be the first to get rid of all your cards.

Setup Shuffle all the cards together. Deal them out as evenly as possible. (It's fine if some players have one card more than other players.)

Gameplay The first player plays one or more cards from his hand, face down, starting a discard pile in the middle of the table. He says, "One Ace," or whatever number is appropriate (i.e. the number of cards he played).

The second player plays one or more cards from his hand, face down, on top of the discard pile. He says, "Two Kings," or whatever number is appropriate (i.e. the number of cards he played).

This continues with each subsequent player moving down one rank -- so the third player would say "Queens," the fourth "Jacks," the fifth "10s," and so on. After a player discards (or claims to discard) 2s, the next player will discard (or claim to discard) Aces.

It is perfectly legal, and in fact necessary, for players to sometimes play cards that are not what they say. For example, a player might play a 10 and a 9 but say, "two Queens." The only penalty comes if such a player is caught (see "Doubting"). If a player names the wrong rank (i.e. says "Two 5s" when he should have said "Two 8s"), that player must take all of the cards from the discard pile and add them to his hand.

Doubting After each discard, any other player can say, "I doubt it."

The last player's discarded cards are then turned face up. If any card in that set is not of the stated rank, the player who discarded them must take the entire discard pile into his hand. If all of the cards in that set are of the stated rank, the doubter must take the entire discard pile into his hand.

note: The first player to say "I doubt it" is the official doubter. If more than one player says "I doubt it" at the same time, the player closest to the left of the one who made the discard is the official doubter.

Winning The first player to get rid of all his cards wins. The last play is always made face up, because other players will inevitably doubt it.