LESSON ONE

Built Different

"A Disciple Knows Who They Are"

SCRIPTURE | 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

MEMORY VERSE

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

MAIN IDEA OF THE TEXT

Built different: a disciple's identity is received from Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP RHYTHM

The Image of God

GROUP TIME

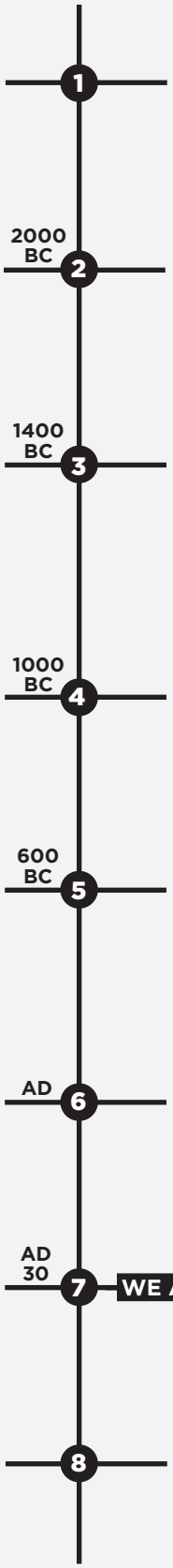
5 minutes	**Welcome**
5–10 minutes	**Attention Grabber**
10 minutes	**Story / Context**
25 minutes	**Discussion**
5–10 minutes	**Closing & Prayer**

PRAYER FOCUS

- **Fall Rhythms** – As the school year begins, pray for families to establish healthy rhythms that prioritize church and spiritual growth.
- **Educators** – Pray for teachers, administrators, and support staff as they shape the lives of students this school year.

BEGIN this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of his Word, and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your study.

GOD'S STORY TIMELINE



1. God Creates the World and Promises a Rescuer *(Genesis 1-11)*
God created everything good and placed humans in a garden to live in close relationship with Him. But Adam and Eve chose to trust themselves instead of God, and sin entered the world. Relationships, creation, even our connection to God was broken. Yet even in judgment, God promised that one day, a descendant of Eve would crush the serpent and bring healing.
+This points to Jesus as the promised Rescuer who defeats sin, Satan, and death.

2. God Calls a Family and Makes a Promise *(Genesis 12-50)*
God chose a man named Abram (later Abraham) and gave a covenant to him: that he would have a large family, receive a land, and be a blessing to all nations. Though Abraham and his descendants were deeply flawed, God continued His promise through Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.
+This points to Jesus as the true offspring of Abraham, through whom all nations are fully blessed.

3. God Rescues His People and Forms a Redeemed Nation *(Exodus-Deuteronomy)*
Generations later, Abraham's descendants were enslaved in Egypt. God raised up Moses to rescue them from oppression and slavery. God called His people into a relationship with Himself. He made a covenant with them, gave them the law, and instructed them in worship. He was forming a people who would live differently and show the world what it looked like to belong to Him.
+This points to Jesus as the greater Moses, who rescues us from slavery to sin and writes God's law on our hearts.

4. God Gives a Home and Promises a King *(Joshua-2 Chronicles)*
God brought His people into the promised land under Joshua's leadership. Over time, they asked for a king like the other nations. It was a disaster. But God graciously gave them David, with whom he made another covenant: one of David's descendants would rule forever. Solomon built the temple, but after his death, the kingdom split into two and began spiraling into idolatry and injustice again.
+This points to Jesus as the forever King from David's line, who reigns with justice and peace.

5. God Removes His People and Reminds Them of His Promise *(Ezra-Nehemiah)*
Because of their rebellion, God allowed His people to be conquered and taken into exile. First, it was the Northern Kingdom, Israel (to Assyria), then the Southern Kingdom, Judah (to Babylon). The temple was destroyed, and the glory of the kingdom faded. Yet God continued to speak through the prophets, reminding the people of His promise to restore them, give them new hearts, and send a Rescuer.
+This points to Jesus as the one who brings the new covenant, restores hearts, and fulfills every prophecy.

6. God Sends His Son and Fulfills His Promise *(Matthew-John)*
At just the right time, God sent Jesus into the world—born of a virgin, fully God and fully man. He perfectly obeyed the law, pointed us to the Father, and laid down His life as a sacrifice for our sins. On the third day, He rose again, proving that He is the Savior, the King, and the fulfillment of every covenant promise God has ever made.
+Jesus is the center of the story—all of Scripture leads to Him.

7. God Sends His Spirit and Builds His Church *(Acts-Jude)*
After rising from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to empower His followers. The early Church spread the good news of Jesus across the Roman world—planting churches, welcoming both Jews and Gentiles, and learning to live as God's new covenant people. Though imperfect, the Church carries Jesus' mission forward today.
+This points to Jesus as the risen King who gives the Spirit to dwell in us and send us on mission.

8. God Restores All Things and Dwells with His People *(Revelation)*
The story isn't over. One day Jesus will return to judge evil and make all things new. There will be a new heaven and new earth, where God's people from every tribe and nation will live with Him forever. There will be no more pain, no more death, and no more sin—just joy, justice, and unbroken peace.
+This points to Jesus as the one who brings the story to its perfect and eternal culmination.

1 GRAB THEIR ATTENTION

LEADER TIP

To grab your participants' attention, start your lesson by telling a story related to the lesson's main idea. We have provided you with three options in this section, but feel free to develop your own.

OPTION 1: FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND THE POWER OF AN IMAGE

Frederick Douglass was the most photographed American of the nineteenth century. He sat for more than 160 portraits, not simply because he was famous, but because he understood the power of an image. At a time when racist caricatures routinely portrayed Black people as inferior or less than fully human, Douglass intentionally presented himself before the camera with dignity, intelligence, strength, and seriousness. He believed photography could challenge the lies people had been taught to believe and help them see the humanity slavery had tried to erase.

Those photographs did not give Douglass his dignity. They revealed a dignity that was already his. No slaveholder, law, newspaper, or public opinion had the authority to decide whether he possessed worth. In the same way, our deepest identity is not created by the labels people place on us, the roles we perform, or the approval we receive. We are made in the image of God, and in Christ we are called, sanctified, and claimed as His people.

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• *What labels or images do people commonly use to identify themselves today?*

Transition Statement from Attention Grabber to Text:
Frederick Douglass used photography to confront false images and reveal a dignity that had always been there. In 1 Corinthians 1:1–9, Paul did something similar by reminding a troubled church who they were as an outflow of God's grace. A disciple does not build an identity from achievement or approval but receives it from Jesus.

OPTION 2: JESUS NAMES SIMON (JOHN 1:42)

When Jesus first met Simon, He told him, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (John 1:42), which means Peter, or "rock." At that point, Simon had not yet proven himself steady or dependable. He would later misunderstand Jesus, speak impulsively, abandon Him, and deny Him three times. Yet Jesus named Simon according to the person His grace would shape him to become.

Simon's identity was not secured by his consistency or destroyed by his failures. It was received from Jesus. In the same way, Paul began 1 Corinthians by calling a deeply flawed group of believers "sanctified in Christ Jesus" and "called to be his holy people." Before Paul told them how they needed to change, he reminded them who Jesus had already called them to be.

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- *What are some sources we look to for our identity?*
- *What failures in Peter's life seem inconsistent with the name "rock"?*

Transition Statement from Attention Grabber to Text:
Jesus named Simon according to His grace, not Simon's track record. Paul began 1 Corinthians the same way, reminding a troubled church who they already were in Christ. A disciple's identity is not earned through performance but received from Jesus.

OPTION 3: THE MANUFACTURER'S LABEL

When you want to know what something is, what it was made for, or how it should be used, you look for the manufacturer's label. That label carries the authority of identity. In the same way, culture, achievement, failure, and other people may try to tell us who we are, but our Creator has the first and final word. We were made in God's image, and in Christ we are called, sanctified, and claimed as His people.

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- *What are some labels people allow to define them?*
- *How can success or failure become a false source of identity?*

Transition Statement from Attention Grabber to Text:
The maker of something has the authority of identity—what it is and what it is for. In 1 Corinthians 1:1–9, Paul reminded the Corinthians that their identity came from the God who called them and from Jesus, to whom they belonged. A disciple knows who they are because God has spoken first.

2 SET THE STAGE

LEADER TIP

This section provides the historical, cultural, and literary context needed to properly interpret and apply the text.

OUTLINE

I. Greetings and Thanksgiving (1:1–9)
II. Problems in the church (1:10–6:20)
- A. Divisions and factions (1:10–4:21)
- B. Gross immorality (5:1–13)
- C. Litigation before pagan courts (6:1–11)
- D. Fornication with prostitutes (6:12–20)

III. Replies to questions from the Corinthians (7:1–14:40)
- A. Questions about marriage (7:1–40)
- B. Limitations of Christian liberty (8:1–11:1)
- C. Veiling of women in public worship (11:2–16)
- D. Disorderly behavior at the Lord's Supper (11:17–34)
- E. Exercise of spiritual gifts (12:1–14:40)

IV. The Resurrection of the Body (15:1–58)
- A. Centrality of Christ's resurrection (15:1–20)
- B. Sequence of resurrection events (15:21–28)
- C. The resurrection and suffering (15:29–34)
- D. Nature of the resurrection body (15:35–49)
- E. The believer's victory over death (15:50–58)

V. Conclusion (16:1–24)
- A. Collection for the believers at Jerusalem (16:1–4)
- B. Paul's plans for visiting Corinth (16:5–9)
- C. Exhortations, instructions, and salutations (16:10–24)[1]

CONTEXT

Corinth was a prosperous and influential city known for commerce, cultural diversity, social competition, and widespread sexual immorality. Paul had helped establish the church there during his second missionary journey and spent about eighteen months teaching and serving among them. Salvation by faith had been firmly established, and believers were rooted in Christ (1:6). After leaving Corinth, however, Paul received troubling reports about division, pride, sexual sin, lawsuits, confusion about marriage and freedom, disorder in worship, and questions about the resurrection. He also received a letter from the Corinthians asking for guidance on several issues. First Corinthians is Paul's pastoral response to a church that had received the gospel but was still allowing the surrounding culture to shape how they thought, related, worshipped, and lived.

Yet Paul did not begin by listing failures. He first reminded believers individually, and the church corporately, that they were God's church, sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, enriched by grace, and sustained by God's faithfulness. Paul was not flattering them or ignoring the seriousness of their sin. He was grounding everything he would say in what God had already done for them. He affirmed identity first. Before he called them to live differently, he reminded them that they had already been built different through Jesus. Their behavior must change, but their identity was set. Identity is

[1] F. Alan Tomlinson, "1 Corinthians," in CSB Study Bible: Notes, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1811.

not something created through better performance; it is something received from God in Christ.

FALLEN CONDITION FOCUS

We look to achievements, relationships, appearance, reputation, and the approval of others to tell us who we are. When those things go well, we become proud; when they fall apart, we become insecure, ashamed, or lost. Because we forget that our identity is received from God, we allow external influences to brand us. We spend our lives trying to prove our worth, listening to the wrong influencers, or allowing our failures to define us.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

God gives us an identity we could never earn and cannot secure by our own performance or efforts. We are designed by God, called and sanctified in Christ, enriched by grace, and sustained by His faithfulness. Because Jesus has claimed us as His own, we can stop building our identity on fragile things and begin living from the security of who we already are in Him.

DISCIPLESHIP RHYTHM

Human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27). This is foundational to our identity and understanding of who and what we are. Our purpose flows out of this identity. The creation narrative indicates that, by God's design, we are somehow like God, we are in relationship with God, and we are commissioned to represent His character and rule in the world. In 1 Corinthians 1:1–9, Paul reminded the Corinthians that this identity was restored in Christ. Elsewhere, Paul wrote that believers are being transformed into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:10). The Corinthian believers had been sanctified, called to be holy, enriched by grace, and brought into fellowship with Jesus. They were built different, not because they were naturally better than the people around them but because God's grace had claimed them and given them a new identity. This is true for all believers.

This means disciples root their lives in identity. They are called to reflect the One whose image they bear. As Jesus reshapes us by His grace, our lives should increasingly represent His holiness, wisdom, faithfulness, and love. Who we are produces what we do. Paul affirmed identity because disciples can only live differently (holy) when we know we have been built different by God.

IDENTITY

Identity is a foundational understanding of yourself. It is an understanding of who I am (sense of self), where I belong (belonging), and what I am supposed to do (purpose).

3 LOOK AT THE BOOK

LEADER TIP

In this section, you will find exercises you can use to lead your group through Observation, Interpretation, and Application. As the leader, work through all the exercises below to ensure you understand the text well.

1 Corinthians 1:1–3

Paul opened by identifying himself as "called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God." The emphasis falls on calling. Paul's authority was not self-appointed, nor was his ministry the result of personal ambition. His identity and assignment had been received from God. That language immediately establishes a pattern that continues through the opening paragraph: God acts first, and His people respond to what He has given.

Furthermore, calling/being called is foundational to identity. Just as Paul positioned his connection to the Corinthian church in being called by God as an apostle, so the Corinthian church was also called by God. Chuck Swindoll helpfully highlighted the importance of Paul's use of this term: "Paul's multiple uses of this term are intended to reinforce the authenticity of the Corinthians' place of salvation in the body of Christ."[2] This affirmation is key to how Paul began this letter, and will be developed more in the following verses.

Paul addressed "the church of God in Corinth." That phrase is striking because the church belongs to God even though it was located in Corinth. The city was known for wealth, status, competition, sexual immorality, and religious diversity, but none of those realities ultimately defined the congregation. They were God's church in that place. Their surroundings exerted pressure on them, but their deepest identity came from the One who had claimed them.

Paul then described them as "sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people." "Sanctified" means set apart for God. The wording is not a denial of the serious problems that appear throughout the letter. Paul was not addressing behavior or actions. He began with identity, confirming that God had set them apart in Christ, and that this identity carried a corresponding calling. They were holy because they belonged to Jesus, and they were called to live in a way that reflected that belonging. Remember, what we do flows out of who we are, not the other way around.

The phrase "together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" placed the Corinthians within the wider church. They were not an isolated spiritual community, free to define Christianity according to local preference. They belonged to a people spread across many places who shared one Lord. Paul even added, "their Lord and ours," reinforcing that Jesus cannot be possessed by one faction, personality, or congregation. From the beginning, Paul grounded unity in identity—shared belonging to Christ.

Verse 3 contains Paul's customary greeting: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." These words are more than polite convention. Grace names God's unearned favor, and peace points to the wholeness and reconciliation that flow from it. Both come from the Father and the Son. Before Paul corrected the Corinthians,

[2] Charles R. Swindoll, *Insights on 1 & 2 Corinthians* (Carol Stream: Tyndale House, 2017), 15.

he reminded them of what they already had: divine grace and peace. Mention of these set the tone for the expected virtues that flow from identity.

1 Corinthians 1:4–9

Notice Paul's focus in the next section of verses. Before delving into the details, it is helpful to catch the overall tone and focus. Paul affirmed the identity of the believers in Corinth before offering any exhortation or correction. The church in Corinth was an authentic church with authentic believers. They were genuinely saved, having been given "the grace of God … in Christ Jesus."

One commentator emphasizes this perspective, and it is instructive for us today: "Paul looks at the Corinthian church as it is *in Christ* before he looks at anything else that is true of the church. That disciplined statement of faith is rarely made in local churches. The warts are examined and lamented, but often there is no vision of what God has already done in Christ."[3] Do we see identity in Christ first or start with behaviors? Disciples have been richly blessed in Christ!

1:4–6—Paul began his thanksgiving by saying, "I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus." His gratitude was directed to God rather than to the Corinthians. Whatever was commendable among them was evidence of God's grace. Paul focused on this and shared how he was constantly in prayer of thanksgiving for the establishment of salvation through the gospel.

In verse 5, he explained that they had been "enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge." Paul confirmed the presence of gifts of speech and knowledge that accompanied genuine salvation. He identified these as blessings received in Christ. Paul expounded on gifts given to believers later in the letter. For now, he confirmed that the Corinthians were spiritually endowed.

Verse 6 adds, "God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you." The "testimony about Christ" refers to the gospel Paul had proclaimed. Its truth had been confirmed in the Corinthians through the work God had done among them. Their changed lives and spiritual gifts were evidence that the message about Jesus had taken root. Paul's wording keeps the focus on God's action. The gospel had not merely impressed them as an idea; God had established its reality among them.

1:7—Paul said they did "not lack any spiritual gift" as they waited for the Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. The Corinthians possessed a remarkable range of gifts, and later chapters show they placed great importance on them. Here Paul located those gifts within a larger horizon. They were not ends in themselves or badges of rank. They were given to sustain the church while it waited for Christ.

The phrase "as you eagerly wait" directed their attention forward. Christian identity is shaped not only by what God has already done but by what He has promised to do. The Corinthians lived between grace received and glory revealed. Their gifts belonged to this present season, but their ultimate hope rested in the return of Jesus. That future expectation unifies believers.

[3] David Prior, *The Message of 1 Corinthians: Life in the Local Church*, The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1985), 23.

1:8–9—Paul continued, "He will also keep you firm to the end." The subject is God. Their final security did not rest on their ability to preserve themselves or maintain a flawless record. Paul had still not yet addressed any behaviors. He could speak with confidence about a deeply troubled church because his confidence rested in God's faithfulness, not their consistency. The same God who called them would sustain them.

The goal was that they would be "blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul was not claiming they were presently without sin, nor was he suggesting their failures did not matter. He was looking toward the day when Christ would complete His work and present His people blameless, without accusation. Their future standing was tied to what God would accomplish, even as the rest of the letter would call them to live now in a way that fit that future.

Verse 9 grounds the entire paragraph: "God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." The word "called" returns, echoing Paul's own calling in verse 1 and the Corinthians' calling in verse 2. Their identity began with God's initiative. To be called into fellowship with Christ means more than individual salvation. It is participation in the life of the Son and belonging to the community formed around Him.

This opening establishes the logic of the whole letter. Paul would confront division, pride, sexual sin, misuse of freedom, disorder in worship, and confusion about resurrection, but he began with identity: grace, calling, sanctification, and fellowship. The Corinthians did not need to invent a better identity. They needed to live in a way that corresponded to the identity God had already given them in Christ.

Paul's affirmation of the identity of Corinthian believers is the same for us today. His affirmation is for "all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1:2). Disciple know who they are because God has designed them, called them, set them apart, gifted them, and promised to sustain them.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1–9

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Gather in groups of three to five people to discuss the Observation and Interpretation questions.

OBSERVATION EXERCISE 1: HOW PAUL DESCRIBED HIMSELF

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1. How did Paul describe himself (who he was, how he became an apostle)?

Suggested Response: Paul described himself as called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.

OBSERVATION EXERCISE 2: HOW PAUL DESCRIBED THE CORINTHIANS

Read 1 Corinthians 1:2–3. Make a list of the words and phrases Paul used to describe the Corinthian believers and their relationship to God, Jesus, and other believers.

Suggested Response: Paul called them "the church of God in Corinth," "sanctified in Christ Jesus," and "called to be his holy people." He also placed them together with believers everywhere who call on the name of Jesus. Paul said Jesus was "their Lord and ours."

OBSERVATION EXERCISE 3: WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4–9. List the actions Paul said God had taken, was taking, or would take for the Corinthians.

Suggested Response: God had given them grace in Christ, enriched them in speech and knowledge, confirmed the testimony about Christ among them, and given them spiritual gifts. He would keep them firm to the end and make them blameless on the day of Christ. Paul also said God is faithful and had called them into fellowship with His Son.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 1: A CALLING THAT COMES FROM GOD

Why did Paul emphasize that he was called to be an apostle "by the will of God"? What does this reveal about the source of a disciple's identity and calling?

Suggested Response: Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand that his role did not come from ambition, status, self-appointment, or being appointed other people. God called him and gave him his assignment. In the same way, a disciple's deepest identity is received from God rather than created through achievement or the approval of others.

INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 2: A LOCAL CHURCH BELONGS TO A LARGER STORY

Why did Paul connect the believers in Corinth with "all those everywhere" who call on the name of Jesus? How should this have affected the way the Corinthians thought about themselves?

Suggested Response: Paul reminded them that they were part of a larger group of believers than their local expression. This means they were not an isolated group, free to define faith according to local culture or personal preference. Besides being made in the image of God, like the rest of mankind, they also belonged to the worldwide people of God under one Lord. Their identity was both personal and communal: they belonged to Jesus, and they belonged alongside everyone else who calls on His name.

INTERPRETATION EXERCISE 3: GRACE BEFORE CORRECTION

Why did Paul begin by reminding the Corinthians of their identity?

Suggested Response: Paul grounded believers in identity first. This is foundational to who we are, in contrast to looking at behaviors as foundational. The Corinthians needed to change some behaviors, but they did not need to invent a new identity or earn God's acceptance. God had already called them, set them apart, gifted them, and promised to sustain them. Paul wanted them to live in a way that matched the identity they had already received in Christ.

LEADER TIP

In this section, you will find questions to choose from that will help your group consider how God calls them to respond to the text. Help your group set measurable action steps.

APPLICATION: HOW DO I RESPOND?

QUESTION 1: What words or phrases caught your attention from the passage?

Suggested Response: Responses will vary. As a leader, be prepared to share. Also, as follow-up questions to explore why a particular word or phrase was meaningful or challenging to your group.

QUESTION 2: Paul began by affirming, in Christ, who we are, how we belong, and what we are supposed to do. What are some good things about your identity you are celebrating right now?

Suggested Response: Responses will vary. Some phrases to help prompt responses are: designed by God; an image bearer of God; commissioned to steward God's creation and world; sanctified in Christ; set apart in Christ; part of a global community of Jesus followers; saved by God in Christ; endowed fully; established in faith by God; gifted spiritually; alert to our future hope; sustained by God till Christ's coming; in relationship with God the Father through the Son, Jesus Christ; etc.

QUESTION 3: What are you tempted to believe about yourself that goes against who God says you are?

Suggested Response: Responses will vary. Use follow-up questions to invite transparent discussion. "I am challenged to remember that I am fully designed and called by God. Therefore, I am established in faith and do not have to prove myself or earn a relationship with Him. But I feel like I need to prove myself, and jobs seem like a really big deal to

demonstrate status. So I try to make my job sound like it is unique and carries a lot of importance. I spend a lot of time working myself into increasing levels of leadership so I am recognized."

QUESTION 4: How does being made in the image of God (imago Dei) give your life purpose?

Suggested Response: The Maker and Designer sets the foundation for who I am and the purpose for how I live and what I do. Like an artist who creates a masterpiece or an engineer who designs a product, the Creator instills identity and provides purpose.

QUESTION 5: What are you learning about God from this passage that is leading you into richer devotion?

Suggested Response: Responses will vary. "I am choosing to believe God will keep me to the end and present me blameless. I don't feel like I can be blameless. But God says He will do this! And what a mercy in my life to forgive and remove my failures and rebellious behaviors! I worship Him! He is good. He is faithful!"

QUESTION 6: Paul connected the Corinthians with believers "everywhere" who call on Jesus. How does our shared identity in Christ impact the way we view and treat other believers?

Suggested Response: Remembering we share one Lord should help me resist pride, competition, isolation, and unnecessary division. I can honor believers from different backgrounds, remain teachable, pursue unity, and remember that God's family is larger than my preferences or immediate group. Paul began by affirming common identity. I want to intentionally focus on this first, not differences with others.

QUESTION 7: What can we do this week as a group to help one another remember and live from our identity in Christ?

Suggested Response: As a group, we can remind one another of what God says is true, pray for areas where insecurity or comparison has taken hold, and encourage one another when we see God's grace at work. We can also choose one truth from this passage to repeat and practice throughout the week.

4 CHALLENGE

LEADER TIP

End your study time with one final challenge and prayer. Your final challenge should pull together everything you covered in this lesson and call your participants to action.

A disciple is built different because our identity is received from God and restored by Jesus rather than constructed from achievement, approval, success, or failure. That identity is not merely theoretical. It leads us to worship God. It compels us to live according to God's design of us and aligns our lives with His purposes for us.

This week pay attention to intentionally living out of your identity. Your identity is secure in Christ and preserved by God.

You live differently because, in Christ, you have already been built different.

Let's pray.