



## The Seven: Identity

November 19 | Group Discussion Guide

Begin with a psalm, prayer, and some opening questions (10 minutes).

Read Psalm 139:1-18.

After reading, spend a few moments in prayer, thanking God for your time together and asking him to make you a Scripture-centered people.

Then, like in Dan's sermon, take turns having your group pretend like they are introducing one another to a stranger. Have each person share 1-2 things about each person in your group. Finally, talk about it. What things came to the surface? Was anything surprising about how people described you?

Transition to an individual reflection exercise on "Identity" (30 minutes).

- For this reflection exercise, you'll need a pen and paper or your phone.
- Reflect individually on the various identities you hold, such as student, parent, sibling, employee, Christian, friend, or American. Consider listing them on paper or your phone.
- Next, prioritize these identities based on the depth of truth you associate with each, placing the ones that resonate most profoundly with you at the top and those that feel less true lower on the list.
- Then, reflect on the following questions:
  - What emotions arise as you reflect on your list of prioritized identities?

- In what ways has your prioritized list been influenced by your circumstances, experiences, family background, and more?
- Reflect on Dan's three main points about identity: (1) I am who others say I am; (2) I am who I say I am; and (3) I am who God says I am. How are these at play in your list of prioritized identities?
- How do these three categories of identity compete against or help one another in your list?
- Are there any identities on your list that you feel pressure to uphold, but they may not align with who God says you are?
- Are there identities you wish to prioritize more in your life? What steps can you take to strengthen those aspects of your identity?

### **Transition to gendered small groups (25 minutes).**

Ask a few questions about each person's time reflecting on their own:

- Share one identity that you found surprising in its placement on your prioritized list. What insights or realizations did this discovery prompt?
- Discuss any common themes or patterns that emerged within the group regarding how societal influences or external expectations impact our perceptions of identity. How might acknowledging these influences collectively influence our self-awareness?
- Read the following passages: **1 Peter 1:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 17:7-8; Ephesians 2:10; and Galatians 4:7.** How can this group provide support or resources to help you strengthen your identity in Christ as promoted in these passages?

### **Finish with logistics and prayer (5 minutes).**

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study devotions available to help you walk through our church's seven priorities! You can find that material at [thecreek.org/devotionals](http://thecreek.org/devotionals).
2. Share any logistics that you need to share with the holidays coming up.
3. Finish your group session with prayer requests.