

I KNOW WHO I AM

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Focus Through studying Matthew 4:3–11 we learn knowing who we are in Christ helps us not be performance-driven, arrogant or selfish.

Fun What was the silliest or craziest thing you ever did as a kid while trying to impress someone? Share it with the group.

Review Key Scripture: Matthew 4:3–11

Jesus is our greatest example of what it means to “know who you are.” In Matthew 3:13–17 Jesus is baptized and God declares, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.” When we truly know who we are we’ll lay aside all behaviors that are performance-driven, arrogant and selfish.

- *Performance Driven.* Matthew 4:3–4 Satan tries to tempt Jesus to turn stones into bread. But Jesus was not tempted to perform for Satan. Jesus knew that He was the Rock of Salvation and the Bread of Life.
- *Arrogant.* Matthew 4:5–7 The devil tries to tempt Jesus to jump from the highest point of the Temple, but Jesus knew who He was and resisted Satan. Jesus was not tempted to prove Himself to the devil.
- *Selfish.* Matthew 4:8–11 In the final temptation, Satan tries to tempt Jesus to worship him by saying, “I will give [all the world] to you.” Jesus knew that in order to restore the kingdom He had to suffer and die on the cross. The crucifixion was the ultimate act of selflessness.

Group Dynamics Idea End 15 minutes early. While everyone is still sitting, genuinely ask those in your group how they are doing. Give time for group members to respond. Identify any needs for ministry. Then take time to pray specifically for those who may be struggling or in need of encouragement.

Discuss

1. Do you feel like you have a healthy self-image? What are some of the biggest influences of identity nowadays? Explain.
2. If you could change one thing about yourself what would it be and why? Do you think God would want to change anything about you? Why or why not?
3. Zephaniah 3:17 says that God rejoices over you with singing and dancing. Is this a hard idea for you to understand? Share with the group.
4. Take a minute and think of three words to describe yourself. What are they? Now try to think of three words that God might use to describe you. Are the answers similar? Why or why not?
5. How would your life be different if you were completely confident about who you are in Christ? Is it possible to gain deeper revelation of God's love? How?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Identify any incorrect perceptions you have held about of yourself.
- Ask God how He sees you.
- Believe what God says about you.

Pray

- Pray that we would lay aside incorrect perceptions and beliefs of ourselves and others.
- Pray for a renewed understanding of God's great love.
- Pray for a growing revelation of who we are in Christ.

New Leader Tip Look for opportunities to give open and genuine praise to those in your group. Don't be afraid to point out the positive qualities that you discover in your group members. This will not only encourage but cultivate trust.