

Foundations – Word

Identity - "I am dead to sin. I am alive in Christ. I am free."

I. Beginning the Study

- Psalm 119:105 – *"Your _____ is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*(ESV)
- Joshua 1:7-8 –
- Psalm 119:89 –
- 2 Timothy 3:16 –
- Hebrews 4:12 –
- Hand Activity:



- The power of the Word: John 8:32, Psalm 119:9, Psalm 119:11
- How do you make sense of the Word? God helps us: James 1:5
- Memorization tips:

II. New Identities!

- I am *dead to sin*. I am *alive in Christ* (Romans 6:11):

- I am *free* (Galatians 5:1):

III. Small Group Questions:

- 1) Why does Satan fear the Word of God (Hint: How do you combat a lie)? Read Revelation 12:10-11. How do the blood and the Word help us overcome Satan?

- 2) Share some of the moments God clearly spoke to you through the Word.

- 3) What does being “dead to sin and alive in Christ” mean to you? How does this change your perspective in your fight with sin? How does knowing “the truth will set you free” affect how you fight your sin?

- 4) The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as “The Living Water.” The Word of God is sometimes referred to as “The Bread of Life.” What happens to your mouth if you eat too much bread with nothing to drink? How do many conservative churches reflect this? What happens if you drink and drink but eat no solid food? How do many charismatic churches reflect this? How would a church look with a perfect balance?

- 5) What are the identities we have covered so far? What does each mean for us?

Memory Verse of the Week –

Foundations – Word

Identity – “I am dead to sin. I am alive in Christ. I am free.”

- Psalm 119:105 – *“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (ESV)*
- Joshua 1:7-8 – *As we meditate on the Word we will find success in our walk with God.*
- Psalm 119:89 – *God’s Word is eternal.*
- 2Timothy 3:16 – *All Scripture is from God.*
- Hebrews 4:12 – *Scripture is living and active and cuts like a sword.*

These next two points aren’t critical but are usually asked about.

- The original *Old Testament* was written in Hebrew and was canonized in 200 B.C.
- The original *New Testament* was written in Greek and was canonized in 367 A.D.
- Hand Activity:



The Five Fingers:

- The Pinky Finger represents: “Hearing the Word.” You have come to *Bible* study and already you have heard some Scripture. You’ve, “heard the Word.” Proverbs 8:33 – “*Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.*”(ESV)
- The Ring Finger represents: “Reading the Word.” The next step in growing in God’s Word is opening up the *Bible* for yourself and reading it. Deuteronomy 17:19 – “*And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statute, and doing them [...]*” (ESV)
- The Middle Finger represents: “Meditating or Studying the Word.” To really grow in the Scripture, you need to study it and go deeper into it. Psalm 119:15 – “*I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.*” (ESV)
- The Index Finger represents: “Memorizing the Word.” Now you aren’t just hearing, reading, and studying the Word, you are also writing specific Scripture on your heart. There is power in memorization. Psalm 119:11 – “*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*”(ESV)
- The Thumb represents: “Applying the Word.” You can be hearing, reading, studying, and memorizing the Word, but if you are not applying it, then it’s worthless. Read Matthew 7:24-27.

Now, who has their *Bible*? Lift it up. Hold your *Bible* in one hand only using your pinky finger for support. This represents your grip on the Word if all you do is just listen. Now the person sitting next to you will represent the devil. Let the person next to you take hold of the *Bible* and try to steal it from you. Try holding on to the *Bible* with only your pinky. You can’t, right? You are too weak. There is no grip. Now try with two fingers. The devil can still overpower you and steal the Word from you. Now try with all your fingers, including your thumb. Look how much power you have. The Enemy cannot steal the Truth from you. Hallelujah!

You have to be growing in the Word. **Daily.** The Word brings life. The Word will set you free.

▪ The power of the Word

John 8:32 – “*[...] and you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.*” (ESV)

Are you struggling with purity? Are you in sexual bondage?

Psalm 119:9 – “*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.*” (ESV)

Are there other sins that you are struggling with?

Psalm 119:11 – “*I have stored up your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against God.*” (ESV)

- **How do you make sense of the Word? God helps us: James 1:5**

It is by the Spirit of God that we receive revelation. Before reading the Word, we should ask God for wisdom and for the Holy Spirit to give us revelation. By the Holy Spirit you will be able to read the *Bible* countless times, continually receiving new revelations. The Word of God is eternal.

- **Memorization tips:**

Write Scripture onto note cards. Carry them with you and review them on the subway or when you are exercising. A great way to memorize Scripture is to tape up the note cards in your restroom. Instead of reading magazines or sitting there blankly, focus on the Word of God. Speak out the Scripture during your prayer times. Soon it will become a part of you.

II. New Identities!

- ***I am dead to sin. I am alive in Christ. (Romans 6:11):***

Notice the verb tense in the verse. Is it present? Future? Past? Will we die to sin? Are we dying to sin? No, we are dead to sin. This verse is repeated in different ways all throughout Paul's letters in the New Testament. What does it mean to be dead to sin?

There is a saying in English, "He or she is 'dead to me.'" When someone goes through a horrible breakup and are greatly let down or hurt by someone, they might say of that person, "He's dead to me." What do they mean? They mean that the person no longer is a part of their identity. The person no longer has an affect on them. That part of the life is now considered gone, dead, no more. They will no longer think of that person. They have moved on.

So it is with our relationship with sin. When we are "dead to sin," that means it is no longer a part of our identity. It's gone. Dead. We know longer think of sin or find identity in sin. Our identity is now in Christ. We find our life, our purpose, our pleasure all in Him. Goodbye sin. Hello Christ! Please repeat after me, "I am dead to sin! I am alive in Christ!" Amen.

- ***I am free. (Galatians 5:1):***

This trait emphasizes all the more that sin no longer has a hold on us. It's now our choice whether to submit to sin again or to walk in our freedom in Christ. We are not only free from the bondage of sin, but we are free from the guilt of sin as well. Jeremiah 31:34b – "*For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*" (ESV) If God no longer remembers our sins, then why should we? We are free!

Do you remember Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3:9-10? We are called to actively put off the old self and to put on the new self. Reading the Word and speaking out God's promises are a huge step in claiming your identity in Christ. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free! Please repeat after me, "I am free!!!" Amen!

III. Small Group Questions

- 1) Why does Satan fear the Word of God (Hint: How do you combat a lie)? Read Revelation 12:10-11. How do the blood and the Word help us overcome Satan?

(You combat a lie with the truth. The blood redeems us, makes us a new creation, and makes us God's possession. It is our shield. The Word is the Truth and is used to combat every lie of Satan. When he tries to call us back into sin or shame, we are able to claim that we are dead to sin, alive in Christ, and free from slavery of sin. The Truth is our weapon against the enemy. The blood is our shield/protection. The Word is our sword/weapon.

- 2) Share some of the moments God clearly spoke to you through the Word.

- 3) What does being "dead to sin and alive in Christ" mean to you? How does this change your perspective in your fight with sin? How does knowing "the truth will set you free" affect how you fight your sin?

- 4) The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as "The Living Water." The Word of God is sometimes referred to as "The Bread of Life." What happens to your mouth if you eat too much bread with nothing to drink? How do many conservative churches reflect this? What happens if you drink and drink but eat no solid food? How do many charismatic churches reflect this? How would a church look with a perfect balance?

(Mouth gets dry without water... many conservative churches are dry and without life. Body loses strength and can drown without solid food and with too much water... many charismatic churches have little power against Satan's lies because they do not have enough of the Truth in them... they can easily be deceived. There must be a balance.)

- 5) What are the identities we have covered so far? What does each mean for us?

Memory Verse of the Week – Romans 6:11