



Group Leader Guide

“Who You Are Without Work Matters” – 90,000

October 5-6, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Teaching Pastor **Ben Foote** concludes the series **90,000** by addressing our identities apart from work. While work is important, necessary, and good, as we have been learning the past few weeks, it also has the potential to take up unhealthy real estate in our lives. We look to work to fill something in us, to define us, and to bring us something that it ultimately can't do. We look to work a lot for our identities. We use work and our accomplishments to cover up the lies that we believe about ourselves: that we are not enough, that we are weak, that we are fill-in-the-blank. Ben shows us that work was never meant to define us. Only Jesus can do that. And he has by dying for us and calling us by our name (**Isaiah 43:1**)! He is the lifter of our head (**Psalms 3:3**). We are His, and only He has the right to define us.

// Biblical Context: “Lifter of My Head”

Psalms 3: This Psalm was written by David when he was fleeing from Jerusalem during his son Absalom's rebellion. This story can be found in **2 Samuel 15 and 16**. In chapter 16, verses 5-14, we find a fascinating story about a man named Shimei that followed David as he fled, hurling insults and rocks at him. These insults include phrases such as “you are a man of blood,” “you are worthless,” and “you are evil.” These are all in reference to how David had been king up to this point,

i.e., how he had done his job. One of David's soldiers offers to go kill Shimei, but David doesn't let him. Instead, he allows Shimei to follow them for miles, insulting him the entire way. It says that when they got to where they were going, the Jordan River (a distance of about 20 miles on foot), everyone “arrived weary.” It is in the context of this scene that we read the words of David in Psalm 3. I think it is safe to say he was not only weary with physical fatigue, but also with emotional exhaustion from the constant berating, much like Job in **Job 10:15** when he can't lift his own head because of his disgrace and afflictions. David was *weary* from the insults and attacks on his identity. Next, it says that David “refreshed himself” at the Jordan after arriving weary. Since this is the timeframe within which David wrote Psalm 3, I believe he was not only physically refreshed from the waters of the river, but also spiritually and emotionally refreshed by remembering who *God* was, what God thought of *him*, and what only God could do about his current situation. God was his shield and the lifter of his head from both the disgrace of the political turmoil and the disgrace of the insults hurled at him by Shimei.

// What God Says

Ben uses a series of statements that represent what God has to say about you that combat the lies that you or someone else has implanted in your head and define your identity. This is a list of those sayings and the verses they come from:

You are forgiven. “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (**Romans 8:1**)

You are free. “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (**Galatians 5:1**)

You are treasured and valued. “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. (**Deuteronomy 7:6**)

You are here on purpose and for a purpose. “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb...in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me...” (**Psalms 139**)

You are loved. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (**John 3:16**)

You are worth dying for. “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” (**Romans 5:7-9**)

// In Preparation

How do you, as the leader, view your role in this group? What are your motivations for leading this group? Are you doing it to gain approval or affirmation from other people, hoping this will lead to a positive sense of identity? Do you beat yourself up when group discussion doesn’t meet your expectations? Do you translate the engagement level of the members in your group to personal statements about you?

Think about these questions before group this week so that you can have a clear understanding of how you use this group as an identity source.



Discussion Questions

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// Bible References

Isaiah 43:1; Psalm 3:3

// Community Questions

1. Have you ever heard a kid call someone a hilarious name?

// Core Questions

1. Ben talked about us all having a “bad identity” or lie that we believe about ourselves. His was, “You are weak.” What is your “bad identity”?
2. Thinking back through your life, when do you think this “bad identity” started to work its way into your life?
3. How does that “bad identity” play out in your life today?
4. What do you do, whether at work or elsewhere, to overcome that “bad identity”?
5. What statement about what God has to say about you means the most to you?
6. What can you do in your life so that you can start to believe this regularly? For example, you could read the verses referenced by Ben every morning before work, or you could write them on a post-it note and put them somewhere you will regularly see them.

// Challenge

Identity issues are extremely sensitive and tricky. Sometimes they creep in without our knowledge or consent. We just find ourselves one day fully reliant on someone or something earthly to tell us who we are and what we are worth. Sometimes we aren't even aware of it once it is happening. Take some time this week to think and/or journal about what areas of your life are speaking into your identity. There will probably be some surface-level ones that are easy to identify. But more than likely, there are some much deeper that are harder to put your finger on. These are, perhaps, the most dangerous. So, take some time to think about this and become aware of what is affecting your identity. Awareness is always the first step to fixing a problem. Pray that God will reveal these to you so that you can start to believe who HE says that you are instead of anything or anyone else.