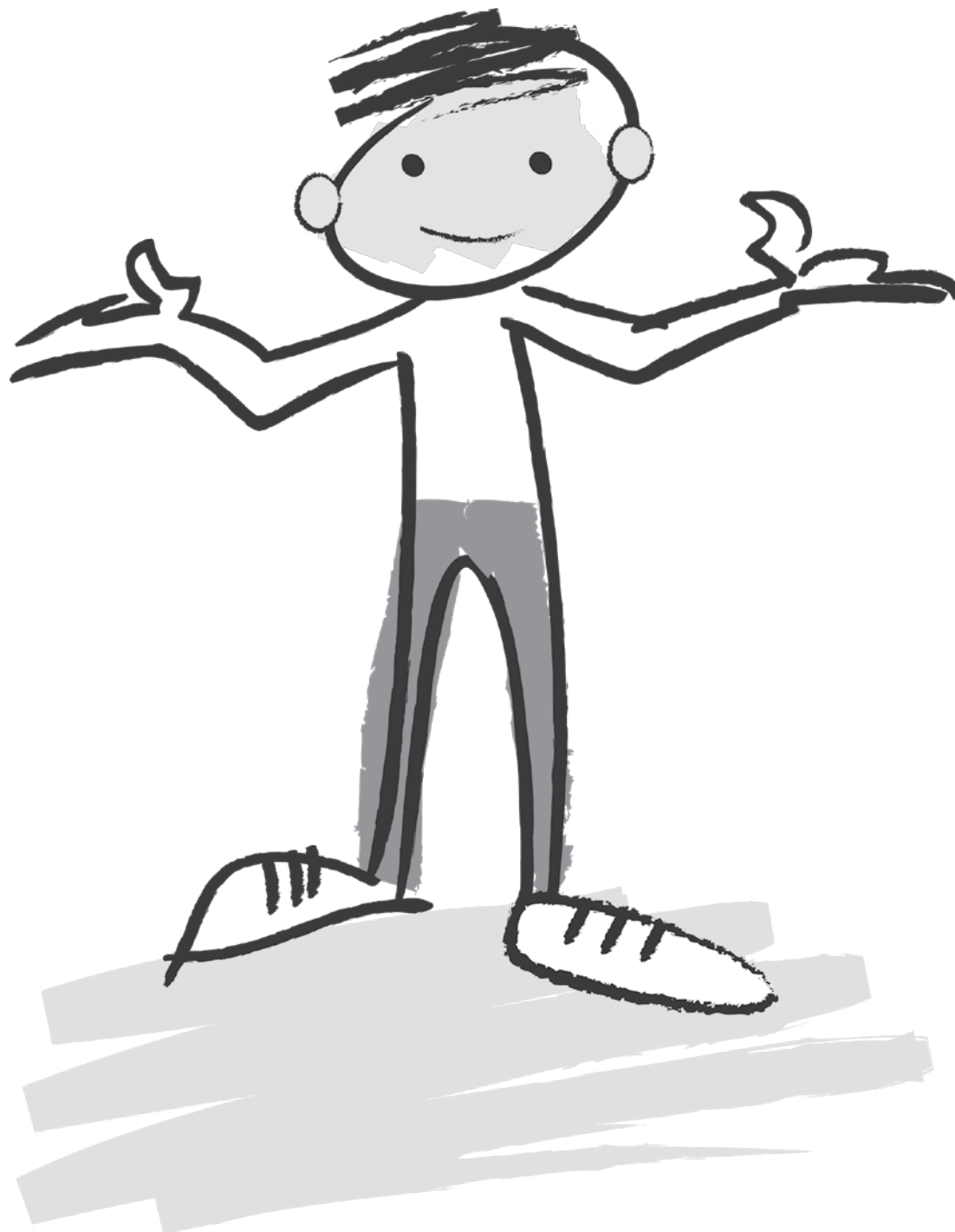


## Who Am I?



# Session 1:

## Who Am I?

### FOCUS VERSE:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV): Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

### OBJECTIVE:

To realize that deep down inside we are now completely new creations in Christ, “holy ones” who are accepted, secure, and significant.

### FOCUS TRUTH:

Your decision to follow Christ was the defining moment of your life and led to a complete change in who you now are.

### POINTERS FOR LEADERS:

In this first session you will be helping people answer the question, “Who am I?” The way Christians respond to the question reveals what they believe about the gospel and their spiritual heritage. This is a delightful session to lead because you will see people who for years have believed that deep down they are somehow a disappointment to God start to realize the truth of what Jesus has done for them — He has changed their very nature from someone who was displeasing to God to someone in whom He delights.

Some people may struggle because they do not **feel** like a holy one. Keep emphasising that the critical thing is not what you feel but what the Word of God actually says. If you want to explore this topic in more detail, we recommend that you read *Victory Over The Darkness* by Dr. Neil T. Anderson (Bethany House).

This session contains the first of three key lists of Biblical truth that we will share with participants during the course. They can be life-transforming if people make the choice to believe them. The lists are readily accessible via the app and in the Participant’s Guide. You can also order from Freedom In Christ a set of colour bookmarks that many really find helpful to keep in their Bible or pin on their fridge.

If you are planning an away day after Session 7, remember to inform people of the date so that they can keep it clear. We recommend that, at an appropriate point during the session, you share testimonies from yourself or others who have been through the *Freedom In Christ Course* previously. If you are using the video presentations, some will be shown on that but it would be even more effective to supplement those with ‘live’ testimonies if you can. If you are not using the video and you do not yet have any testimonies of your own, you might like to read the extracts from letters sent to Freedom In Christ Ministries on page 49.

**If you are using the video to present the course, there is an additional video lasting just over 16 minutes that introduces the three presenters, Steve Goss, Nancy Maldonado, and Daryl Fitzgerald (available on the DVD, and also on the app). If you didn’t show it during the Introduction Session, suggest that participants have a look at it on the app.**

Participants will find it beneficial to read the four Discipleship Series books alongside going through the course (see page 24). We recommend that you have some available for people to buy or refer them to Freedom In Christ’s website. There are details in the Participant’s Guide on page 6. At the start of each session (in the Word section) we have listed the relevant pages from the book series.

## THE APP

We strongly encourage you to recommend the Freedom In Christ app to participants. It has been specifically designed to accompany participants through the course so that they really connect with the life-changing truths they will encounter.

They can enter the dates of the sessions and for seven days after each session the app will send them short daily nuggets to reinforce the teaching in that week's session.

It also contains additional teaching films on important areas such as handling temptation and working out who is responsible for what in the Christian life.

One of the key features is the Stronghold-Buster Builder. Stronghold-busting is a tool to help participants renew their mind which is taught in Session 8. The app will prompt participants to use their stronghold-busters on a daily basis.

It also gives participants access to the Freedom In Christ Daily Devotional, a year's worth of daily encouragements that will remind them of the principles they will learn on the course.

It's available as a free download giving access to the first three sessions and the lists of Biblical truth. There is a small charge to unlock the other sessions. Try it for yourself first! See page 25 for more details.

## TESTIMONIES

The following are extracts from communications sent to Freedom In Christ Ministries. They can be read out as testimonies of people's experiences on the course if you do not have any of "live" testimonies of your own yet and are not using the video.

1. "I can truly say that, after finding Jesus as my Saviour, entering into the fullness of my spiritual freedom in Christ has been the most significant moment of my life — I recommend it."
2. "Finding my freedom in Christ has changed my life."
3. "I have been a Christian for many years, been to all the right meetings, done the right actions, worn all the T-Shirts! For a long time now I have been feeling quite despondent, thinking that there must be more to church life than this, and that if I were prayed for by the right person or had a 'dramatic experience or manifestation' then I would be more spiritual and would be a better Christian.

But listening to all the teaching last week I began to realize that actually I already knew all the truths that were spoken and this was so encouraging.

Then on Saturday going through *The Steps To Freedom In Christ* I didn't actually 'feel' anything, but later realized that I didn't have any deep-seated issues that needed dealing with (only a few minor ones) as they had already been dealt with by God before. I just hadn't believed it. Any other issues I now know how to deal with. I wept through our worship time on Sunday morning."

4. "I wanted to contact you with thanks and praise! For the first time, I went to bed last night just praising God, telling him that I loved him. And I woke up this morning with my heart full and pounding with his love.

The truths that I encountered in the course were liberating. Although much of it I 'knew', it was not true in my heart. I was separated from the truth of God's love and Jesus' liberation by a large wall of pain, wounds, and lies — so many lies about God. But the wall came tumbling down this week."

## SMALL GROUP TIMINGS:

The following plan is designed to help those leading the course in small groups. It assumes a meeting of around 2 hours in length and suggests how long each part of the session should last and also indicates the cumulative elapsed time (in minutes). You will find a time plan in each session.

Welcome (including Introducing The Presenters video)	30 minutes	30
Worship	12 minutes	42
Word part 1	6 minutes	48
Pause For Thought 1	15 minutes	63
Word part 2	11 minutes	74
Pause For Thought 2	25 minutes	99
Word part 3	14 minutes	113
Reflection	7 minutes	120

### Note:

The time allocated for the Word sections is based on the length of the corresponding section of the accompanying video sessions.

The Witness section is not included in the time plan as it tends to be used in place of a Pause For Thought section. You will need to add on 5 to 10 minutes if you want to include it separately.

Registered users of the course can download a spreadsheet with these timings. Simply enter your own start time, adjust the length of the various components as desired and you will have a timed plan of your session.

## SONGS:

The song from *Worship In Spirit And Truth* (see page 26) that has been written to accompany this session is *That's Who I Am (Part One of Four)*. See page 208 of the Participant's Guide for the lyrics and background info.



If this is a new group you might like to extend this time and ask the pairs to introduce each other to the whole group.



## WELCOME

Spend a couple of minutes in pairs finding out as much as you can about each other. Then, in no more than 30 seconds, answer this question about your partner. “Who is he/she?”



## WORSHIP

Suggested theme: God’s plans and promises.

Read one or two of the following passages: Psalm 33:10–11, Job 42:2, Proverbs 19:21

Suggest that group members speak out in worship and praise the attributes of our God — for example, wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, faithfulness — or God’s various names.



## WORD

I highly recommend you download the Freedom In Christ app which will really help you as we go through the course.

Before we begin the session, let me recommend two ways you can reinforce the Biblical principles we will consider.

There is an accompanying app that you are likely to find very helpful. You might like to go to your app store and search for “Freedom In Christ” right now. It’s free to download. You can enter the date of today’s session and for seven days it will give you some short nuggets of truth to consider. It also contains some extra teaching films and a lot of other features that I’ll mention in due course. The first three sessions are free and there’s a small charge to unlock the others. See page 7 in your Participant’s Guide for more information.

Also, Steve Goss has written four short books, collectively known as *The Freedom In Christ Discipleship Series*, that correspond to the four parts of the course (see page 6 in your Participant’s Guide). The first in the series, *Free To Be Yourself*, corresponds to Part A of the course (the first two sessions). Read up to page 59 in the book for the material that relates to this session.



In case of difficulty finding the app, participants can go to [FICInternational.org/](http://FICInternational.org/) app to get the correct link.

Welcome to Freedom In Christ!

In your Participant's Guide there are notes you can use as we go through each session. This session starts on page 21.

► Our focus over these ten sessions together is making sure that we really *experience* the truth in God's Word, not just as "head knowledge" but in our hearts.

## Who Are You Really?

Perhaps the most fundamental truth we need to know is who we are.

So, who are you?

It sounds like a simple question.

► If you were to meet me at a party and say "Who are you?" I might say "Well, I'm [name]." But you might rightly point out, "No, that's just your name. Who are you?"

"I am a [job title]." "No, that's what you do."

"I'm [nationality]." "No, that's where you were born or where you live."

Is this person that you are looking at really me? [List some physical characteristics: height, hair colour etc.].

► You could put me on an operating table to try to find out who I really am.

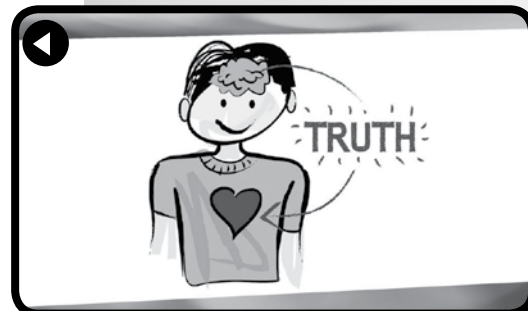
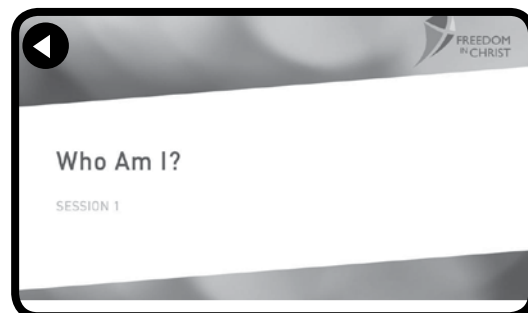
► If you chopped off one of my arms, would I still be me?

► If you chopped off one of my legs as well, would I still be me?

What if you transplanted my heart, kidneys, and liver, would I still be me?

Where am I then? If you keep chopping will you eventually find me? I must be in here somewhere!

The question is: what makes up the real "me", the real "you"?





## The Original Design

### You Were Created In The Image Of God



“God is spirit” — John 4:24. “Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.’” — John 3:5-6



#### Note:

Some theologians believe that the human spirit and the soul are the same thing. Others believe that the human spirit is distinct from the soul. From this point on we will tend to use the term “inner person” that incorporates both concepts.

► The Bible says that we were made “in God’s image” (Genesis 1:26), and God is spirit.

So at the most fundamental level of our being we too have a spiritual nature. It is not our body, our outer person, that is created in the image of God; it’s our inner person.

There’s a TV series in which celebrities trace their family tree. It seems that every family has its share of success, shame and secrets. In the TV series, people have become very emotional as they found out about their ancestors as if this additional knowledge somehow helps them understand themselves a little better.

But if we really want to understand why we are as we are and why we have the in-built drives that we do, we need to go a lot further back than that and start with the couple that we are all descended from.

► Scientists confirm that our mitochondrial DNA proves that we are all descended from the same woman and our Y-chromosomes prove that we are all also ultimately descended from the same man. Look around the room.... We’re all related to each other... What a terrible thought!

The Bible tells us that our ultimate ancestors were called Adam and Eve. Christians disagree about exactly how God created them but we all agree that God inspired their story to be written down to communicate some very significant truth.

Adam’s spirit — his inner person, the core of his being — was connected to his body. In other words he was physically alive. Just as we are.

But Adam’s spirit was also connected to God. Which meant that he was also spiritually alive.

That is how we were designed to be too: on the one hand our spirit connected to our physical body, and on the other hand our spirit connected to God.

This spiritual life, this connection to God gave Adam three very significant things:

### ► 1. Acceptance

Adam had an intimate relationship with God. He could talk with Him at any time and have His full attention.

### ► 2. Significance

Adam was given a purpose for being — to rule over the birds of the sky, the beasts of the field and the fish of the sea (Genesis 1:26).

### ► 3. Security

He was totally safe and secure in God's presence. Everything he needed was provided for — food, shelter, companionship — everything!

Here's the key thing to get hold of. You were created for that kind of life: complete acceptance by God and other people; significance — a real purpose; and absolute security: no need to worry about a single thing.



## The Consequence Of The Fall

Adam and Eve were told, "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Genesis 2:17). They did eat. Did they die? Physically? No. Physical death did eventually come but not until 900 years later. They died spiritually.

The connection that their spirit had to God was broken and they were separated from God. Consequently, all their descendants including you and me were born physically alive but spiritually dead.

► The acceptance they enjoyed, that amazing intimate moment-by-moment relationship with God, changed into a crushing sense of rejection and we all know that feeling.

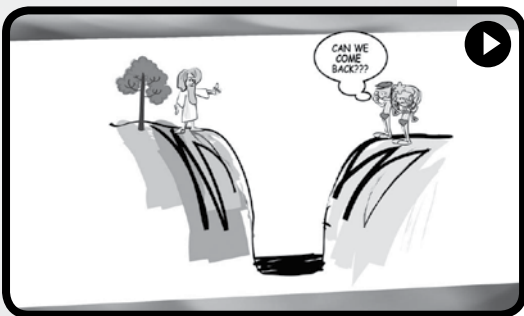






It is often said that the command “Do not be afraid” appears 365 times in the Bible, one for every day of the year.

That would be a nice concept — if it were true! In fact there are about 170 occurrences.



That sense of significance was replaced by a sense of guilt and shame and we're all born with it.

This little piece of wisdom comes from the internet:

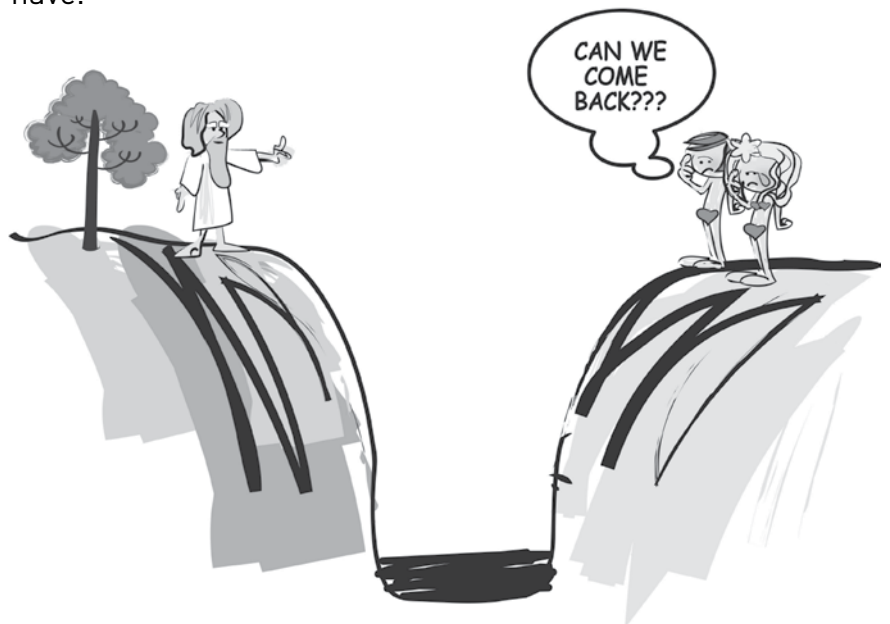
- If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills,
- If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
- If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
- If you can conquer tension without medical help,
- If you can relax without alcohol,
- If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,
- Then you must be the family dog.

Dogs don't seem to have this need to feel significant, to make their life worth something. In fact as long as they can eat, sleep and sniff other dogs occasionally, they seem quite happy. I've tried it and it's not enough for me!

► And that sense of security turned to fear. The first emotion expressed by Adam was, “I was afraid” (Genesis 3:10). “Don't be afraid” is the most repeated commandment in the Bible.

So all of us are born into an environment that's not at all like the one we were designed for.

► But instinctively we want to find our way back to the acceptance, significance and security we were meant to have.

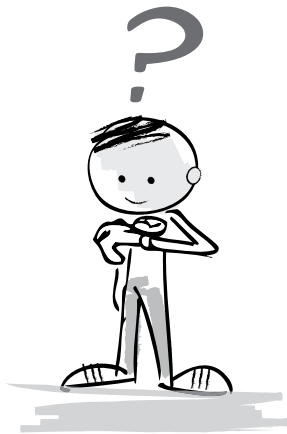




## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT 1

### OBJECTIVE:

TO GET PEOPLE TALKING AND TO START TO REINFORCE THE IMPORTANT CONCEPT THAT ADAM AND EVE WERE ORIGINALLY COMPLETELY CONFIDENT IN THEIR SIGNIFICANCE, SECURITY, AND ACCEPTANCE BUT LOST THOSE THINGS.



### ► QUESTIONS:

What prompted you to come on the *Freedom In Christ Course* and what are your hopes for it?

What were the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin? What are the ways it caused their relationship with God to change?

What sort of things in our daily lives promise to make us feel accepted, significant, and secure?

## What Jesus Came To Do

The only solution to the predicament that we've looked at is to restore our relationship with God, to become spiritually alive again. That's why God sent Jesus.

Jesus was like Adam at the very beginning — He was both physically and spiritually alive. But unlike Adam, Jesus never sinned. He showed us how a spiritually alive person can live in this fallen world if they live dependently upon their heavenly Father.

However, Jesus came to give us more than an example, He came to..... well, why did He come? What would you say?

Most people say, "He came to forgive my sins" and, yes, that's true. But that was just a means to an end. What if we asked Jesus? Actually someone did and Jesus Himself said,

► "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).





Other verses in John referring to the life that Jesus came to bring: John 6:48 ; 11:25; 14:6.



Throughout the course the difference between Christians and not-yet Christians is shown to be a stark one. Depending on the group, it may well be worth emphasizing at this stage that you only get the “life” back if you become a Christian. You may like to say something like: “If you are not sure that you are a Christian, then it’s a matter of choosing to receive God’s free gift and making Him your Lord. Simply thank God that He sent Jesus to die for you when you were in a completely hopeless state and accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. There’ll be an opportunity to do this at the end of the session.”



In some traditions it might be helpful to add: “Although we commonly use the word ‘saint’ to refer to a Christian role-model whose life on earth is complete, the Bible uses it to refer to Christian believers in local churches.”

What did Adam lose? **Life**. What did Jesus come to give us? **Life**.

When we become Christians our spirit is reconnected to God’s Spirit. At that moment we get back the life we were always meant to have with its acceptance, significance, and security.

► Eternal life is not just something you get when you die. It’s a whole different quality of life **right now** (John 5:24).

So, who are you?

The moment you became a Christian was the defining moment of your life. Everything changed for you. And the language the Bible uses is very dramatic:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

Can you be partly old creation and partly new? No!

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8)

Can you be both light and darkness? Not according to that verse.

## A Saint — Not A Sinner

Many of us have come to think of ourselves as “a sinner saved by grace”.

You certainly **were** a sinner, and you were saved by grace alone. But, here’s an interesting verse:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Past tense. This verse seems to imply that we’re no longer sinners.

In the New Testament, the word “sinner” appears over 300 times. But it’s clearly a shorthand way of referring to people who are not yet Christians. You never see it applied to a Christian, at least not in terms of who they are **now**, only in terms of who they used to be.

There’s another word that is shorthand for believers and you’ll find it over 200 times. Traditionally in English this word has been translated “saint” but it really means “holy one”.

Languages such as Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and French don't have this problem — the same word still means both "holy one" and "saint".

► Yes, you are holy. Set apart for God. Special. At the moment you became a Christian — even if you can't pinpoint the exact moment — you became completely new in your inner person. Who you are deep down inside changed from being someone who couldn't help but displease God to someone who is accepted, significant, and secure in Christ.

Galatians 3:27 says that we have "clothed ourselves with" Christ. Perhaps you have understood that to mean that you're still the same dirty, rotten no-good person deep down inside, but it's all covered up by Christ, so that when God looks at you, He doesn't really see you, He sees Jesus.

But that's not at all what the Bible says. ► It's more like the story Jesus told about a son who messed up badly and came crawling back home dirty, smelly and broken, expecting to be punished.

► His father unexpectedly welcomed him with open arms and within a few minutes of his arrival gave him a fine, expensive robe to wear (Luke 15:22).

► Did the robe make him acceptable because it covered up all the dirt? No. The dirt was on the outside. It wasn't the robe that made him a son, was it? He was given the robe because he was already a son and it was the appropriate dress for a son.

Regardless of the mess you may have made or how bad you feel about yourself, the truth is that, if you have accepted Jesus as your Lord, you are now a son or daughter of God Himself. You're righteous, clean and holy on the inside. You can clothe yourself with Christ because at the deepest level of your being He's already made you holy. When God the Father looks at you now, He doesn't see Christ covering your mess. He sees you just as you are: His child, a new creation, holy, wonderful. And He delights in you.

[Do you have a personal story you can tell to illustrate how in your own life you came to the understanding that you are a holy one rather than a sinner?]

Understanding this is crucial, not so much for our salvation but if we want to become the people God created us to be.



**i**

The story of the prodigal son forms the basis of the *Grace Course* (Goss, Miller, Graham — Monarch 2012) which is designed as a follow-up to this course and the illustrations are taken from there.





► Suppose you were an orphan who became a thief and you heard one day that the king had decreed that all thieves were forgiven. Good news... but if that's all the decree said, would it change how you saw yourself? No — you'd still be an orphan and a thief. Would it change your behaviour? Probably not. If you think of yourself as a forgiven sinner (but still a sinner) what are you likely to do? Sin! Because, by definition, that's what sinners do!



But what if the decree mentioned your name and said that the king not only forgave you, but also wanted to adopt you, wanted to make you a prince? ► Would that change how you saw yourself? Of course. Would it change your behaviour? Of course: "Why would I ever want to go back to the life I had now that I am a prince?"

You are not only forgiven, you are adopted. You have become a son or daughter of the King of Kings!



► Who you are now is a **fact** and Satan can't change it. But if he can get you to believe a lie about who you are, he can cripple your walk with God.

No child of God is inferior or useless, but if Satan can get you to believe that you are, that's how you'll act.

No child of God is dirty or abandoned any more. But if Satan can get you to believe that you are, that's how you'll act.

You might say, "You don't know what's been done to me."

It doesn't change who you are in Christ.

"You don't know what failures I've had as a Christian."

It doesn't change who you are in Christ. Jesus loved you when you were still a sinner. He's not going to stop now that you're a saint.

"But what about my future sins?"

When Jesus died once for all, how many of your sins were future? All of them!

You're not saved by how you **behave** but by what you **believe**. And life as a Christian is more of the same. It's not about trying to behave differently. It's about knowing the truth, which then works out into your behaviour. This course is not about learning to behave differently but to believe differently.





## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT 2

### OBJECTIVE:

TO REINFORCE THE KEY TRUTH THAT WE ARE NOW HOLY ONES WHO HAVE BACK THE LIFE WE WERE CREATED TO HAVE.



### ► QUESTIONS:

John 10:10 says that Jesus came to bring us life in all its fullness. What do you think that might look like in practice?

How might knowing that we are “saints” or “holy ones” instead of “sinners” change how we see ourselves?

What are some of the things that could prevent us from fully knowing that we are now new creations in Christ who are completely forgiven?

## What Happens When I Go Wrong?

One of the main problems we have with seeing ourselves as saints rather than sinners is: we are painfully aware that we still sin.

Let me tell you a secret. I snore / burp. ► But when I introduce myself to you, I don't have to say, “Hi, my name is [Name] and I'm a snorer / burper!” I may snore / burp but that's not who I **am**. It's what I **do** and there is a big difference between the two.

It's what we are deep down in our inner person that defines our identity, not what we do. If you are a Christian, at the very core of your being you now share in God's divine nature. We are now new creations; the old has gone; the new has come.

However, that doesn't mean that we are living in a state of sinless perfection: The Bible is clear: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8). We will go wrong from time to time.



The truth is that we all have a deep need to be loved unconditionally for who we are — by definition we can't do anything to earn that.

Perhaps an accurate way to describe us would be “saints who sometimes sin.”

And sin is a serious matter. It gives the devil a foothold in our lives and stops us being fruitful. It disrupts the harmony of our fellowship with God. But it doesn't fundamentally change our relationship with Him.

When you were born again, you became God's child. Spiritually speaking you received His DNA — God's own Spirit lives in you (Romans 8:9) and you now share His very nature (2 Peter 1:4). Nothing can separate you from God's love (Romans 8:39). No one can snatch you out of His hand (John 10:28). If you are truly born again, your relationship with God is settled no matter what you or anyone else might do.

Let me give you an illustration. You know the fairy tale of the princess who decided to kiss a frog? When she kisses the frog, it changes into a handsome prince. Now imagine they go out to dinner to celebrate at a fancy restaurant and suddenly a fly starts to buzz around their table. The prince leaps out of his chair and catches the fly with his tongue. Does his frog-like behaviour make him a frog again? No, he's still a prince. He's just **acting** like a frog. That's how it is when we sin as Christians. It doesn't mean we have gone back to being a sinner. We are still saints. We're just **acting** like sinners.

When we do wrong, we need simply to go to our loving Father, agree with Him that we were wrong, change our thinking about the sin, turn away from it, and know our sin is already forgiven because of Christ's death.

The truth is: nothing you do can make God love you any more — or any less. If you were the only person in the whole world who needed Christ to die, He would have died just for you. That's how special you are!

On pages 33–34 of your Participant's Guide you will find the “Who I Am In Christ” list. We've taken a variety of verses from the Bible that tell us who we really are if we have decided to follow Jesus and we've put them in the “I” form. Let's read them aloud together:

## ► I Am Accepted

I renounce the lie that I am rejected, unloved, or shameful. In Christ I am accepted. God says:

I am God's child.

I am Christ's friend.

I have been justified.

► I am united with the Lord and I am one spirit with Him.

I have been bought with a price: I belong to God.

I am a member of Christ's body.

I am a saint, a holy one.

► I have been adopted as God's child.

I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

I am complete in Christ.

## ► I Am Secure

I renounce the lie that I am guilty, unprotected, alone, or abandoned. In Christ I am secure. God says:

I am free from condemnation.

I am assured that all things work together for good.

I am free from any condemning charges against me.

► I cannot be separated from the love of God.

I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God.

I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.

I am a citizen of heaven.

► I am hidden with Christ in God.

I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control.

I can find grace and mercy to help in time of need.

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.



9 SLIDES IN TOTAL



Some may not be familiar with the word "renounce". It would be worth checking that it is understood. If you prefer, you could use an alternative such as "reject", "refuse", or "say no to".

## ► I Am Significant

I renounce the lie that I am worthless, inadequate, helpless, or hopeless. In Christ I am significant.

God says:

I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

I am a branch of the true vine, Jesus, a channel of His life.

I have been chosen and appointed by God to bear fruit.

► I am a personal, Spirit-empowered witness of Christ's.

I am a temple of God.

I am a minister of reconciliation for God.

I am a fellow worker with God.

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.

► I am God's workmanship, created for good works.

I may approach God with freedom and confidence.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!

I am not the great "I Am," but by the grace of God I am what I am.

You may have been sitting here thinking "Does all this apply to me?" If you are a Christian the answer is a definite yes — but if you are not a Christian it doesn't. If you are not quite sure you are a Christian or you know you are not, it's very easy for you to make a decision to make Jesus the Lord of your life. You can do it simply by asking for the forgiveness of your sins and accepting the free gift of life He came to give. You can do that by speaking to Him in your own heart. If you want to, you can pray it with me. Let's pray: "Thank You, Jesus, for dying in my place to take away all of my sin. Right now I accept Your free gift of life. I choose to make You Lord of my life so that I can become someone completely new. Thank You that I belong to You and now I am Your child."

If you prayed that prayer for the first time, go and tell someone. It will make their day. It means that the list of Biblical facts we read now definitely apply to you.

There was a pastor who loved skiing. One season he was given a brand new electronic pass you don't even have to take out of your pocket to get through the gate to the ski lift. But sometimes when he tried to go through the gate the screen said "not valid". However, he found that if he jumped around in front of the gate long enough, it would eventually let him through. He finally discovered the problem. In another pocket in his ski jacket, he was carrying the old card from the previous year and the machine was sometimes reading the old card rather than the new one. The moment he got rid of the old card, the problem disappeared.

As a believer in Christ you now have a new card, a new identity. Get rid of your old way of thinking because your old identity has gone and your new identity has come. Begin to recognize who you really are in Christ! ►



## REFLECTION

### OBJECTIVE:

TO HELP PEOPLE GRASP THE TRUTHS IN THE "WHO I AM IN CHRIST" LIST AT A DEEPER LEVEL.

### LEADER'S NOTES:

HEARING SOMEONE ELSE READ THESE TRUTHS SPECIFICALLY TO YOU IS A POWERFUL WAY OF GRASPING THEM.

ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO FACE EACH OTHER AND LOOK AT EACH OTHER AS THEY SPEAK. ASK THEM TO SPEAK SLOWLY, DELIBERATELY, AND MEANINGFULLY. SOME WILL FIND THIS A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE BUT IT CAN BE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL.



### ► REFLECTION

Get together with one other person and have the first person read the "Who I Am In Christ" statements to the other changing "I am" to "You are". Then swap around.

Spend a few minutes discussing the statements and the verses they are based on. Share which ones impacted you and why. Spend some time praying for each other, that you will have a deeper understanding that your significance, security, and acceptance are found in Him.





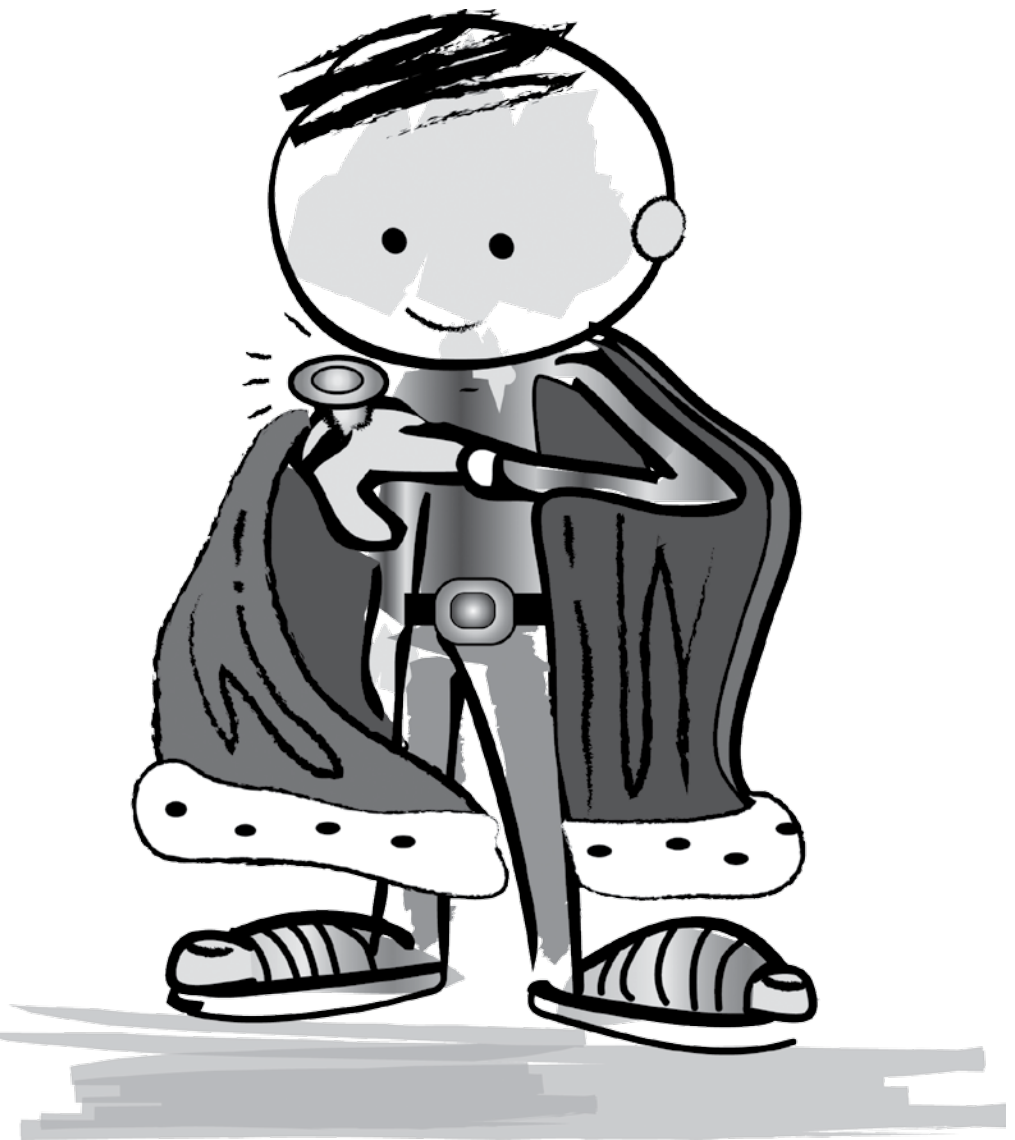
## WITNESS

If you were asked by a neighbour to explain the difference between a Christian and someone who is not yet a Christian, what would you say? Do you think that a Christian is in any way better than a non-Christian? What would you say to someone who asks you, “Why should I become a Christian?”



## IN THE COMING WEEK

Read the “Who I Am In Christ” list out loud every day. Then pick one of the truths that is particularly meaningful to you and spend some time reading it in its context and asking God to help you understand it more fully.



# Who I Am In Christ

## I Am Accepted

**I renounce the lie that I am rejected, unloved, or shameful. In Christ I am accepted.**

**God says:**

- I am God's child (John 1:12)
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:5)
- I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
- I am united with the Lord and I am one spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- I have been bought with a price: I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)
- I am a member of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- I am a saint, a holy one (Ephesians 1:1)
- I have been adopted as God's child (Ephesians 1:5)
- I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18)
- I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins (Colossians 1:14)
- I am complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)

## I Am Secure

**I renounce the lie that I am guilty, unprotected, alone, or abandoned. In Christ I am secure.**

**God says:**

- I am free from condemnation (Romans 8:1–2)
- I am assured that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28)
- I am free from any condemning charges against me (Romans 8:31–34)
- I cannot be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:35–39)
- I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21–22)
- I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected (Philippians 1:6)
- I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3)
- I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7)
- I can find grace and mercy to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
- I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18)

## I Am Significant

I renounce the lie that I am worthless, inadequate, helpless, or hopeless. In Christ I am significant.

God says:

I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14)

I am a branch of the true vine, Jesus, a channel of His life (John 15:1,5)

I have been chosen and appointed by God to bear fruit (John 15:16)

I am a personal, Spirit-empowered witness of Christ's (Acts 1:8)

I am a temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

I am a fellow worker with God (2 Corinthians 6:1)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6)

I am God's workmanship, created for good works (Ephesians 2:10)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me! (Philippians 4:13)

I am not the great "I Am," but by the grace of God I am what I am. (See Exodus 3:14; John 8:24, 28, 58; 1 Corinthians 15:10.)



