



Choosing a Confident Identity

Week of October 21, 2018

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Mark 1:1-38

When you read the first chapter of Mark, you can see the steps Jesus took towards living confidently in his identity as he began his public ministry. As a Jesus follower you can choose to have a confident identity as well by following the path Jesus walked. First was his baptism—an intimate time when God tells us who we are. We need to know who we are in Jesus so we can live our purpose. After Jesus was baptized, he was called into the wilderness. The wilderness is where we can build confidence in our faith. This is where we learn about our strengths and turn over our weaknesses to God; it is where you take responsibility for your spiritual growth. In verses 16-22 Jesus builds his community. We need to build community too. We aren't in this alone. Jesus knew what he was supposed to do and took confident action to fulfill his identity. You can too—follow Jesus, be confident in your identity, and take the next step Jesus is calling you to take.

Pray

Thank you Jesus for showing me the way to be confident in my identity. You provide the way for me to align myself with you and fulfill my purpose as God's beloved child. Help me understand how to take responsibility for my spiritual growth and be confident in my identity and purpose in you.

Digging Deeper

Getting Started

- Share with your group something that you are really confident about; how did you get that confidence?
- When is the last time you took a trip? What steps did you take to get where you were going?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Mark 1:10-11. Share about the time you were baptized; how can being baptized instill confidence in your identity?
2. After Jesus was baptized, he was called into the wilderness. Share about a wilderness experience you've had. How does a wilderness experience give us confidence to carry out our call?
3. On a journey with Jesus, it's important to know where you are so you know how to get where you're going. Where are you in your faith journey? In what ways are you strong? Where are you weak and how can you get stronger?
4. If Sunday worship is only 5% of our faith experience, how are you living your identity in Jesus Monday through Saturday? Discuss why and how our identity in Jesus needs to extend beyond Sunday.
5. Read Matthew 1:16-23. Jesus called others to follow him and created a community for himself. Who do you call your community? Why is it important to have community? What holds you back?
6. In Mark 1:38 Jesus said, "This is why I've come." As Jesus followers we can align ourselves with Jesus and take ownership of our purpose too. What is your purpose? What action steps can you take to align yourself with your purpose?
7. Where are you in your journey towards a confident identity? How will you start taking responsibility for your own spiritual growth?

Living Jesus

As Jesus Followers, we can be confident in our identity as God's children. We can be confident that Jesus will lead us into our purpose as we seek to follow him every day (not just on Sundays). We can be confident that we don't have to do it alone—we have the Spirit to guide us, and we can build a community to help us along the way. God prepares us to do the things he has designed for us to do, but it takes some work on our end. Start by knowing who you are and where you are in your journey. Then gather some people and take action! Confidently live out the call God has for you. This is why you are here!

What's Your Story?

Have you been baptized recently? Joined a connect group? Taken action on God's purpose for your life? Encourage others by sharing your story!

>> Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you tell your Jesus story.

Share Your Experience on Social Media This Week #SevernRun #Extraordinary