

## Small Group Discussion Guide — October 18, 2020

- Series: Gospel Truth - Good News for Everyone
  - Sermon: “You Have a New Identity and a New Start”
  - Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 6:2 (NIV)
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### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:**

What moral questions did you consider this week? How has the idea that God gives us moral boundaries as an expression of His love changed your perspective on moral decision-making?

### **CONNECT:**

1. What one thing stood out for you from this weekend’s services?
2. If you had one “do over” in your life, what would it be?

### **ENGAGE:**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5: 17-6:2 (NIV).
  - In verse 17, what does “the old has gone, the new has come” mean?
  - What did God do for us, and what is he calling us to do now (v. 18)? What does this mean to you? What does it tell you about God, that this is so important to Him?
  - Read verse 21. Why do you think Paul says Jesus *became* sin for us, and that we could *become* the righteousness of God?
  - What does it look like to “receive God’s grace in vain?”

### **APPLY:**

1. What kinds of situations or difficulties cause you to forget or doubt your new identity in Christ? When are you most susceptible to the voice of the enemy telling you that you’ve sinned too much, exhausted God’s patience, and lost His love? What can you do in those times?
2. Read Romans 8:34. Take in the words that *God does not condemn you*. In what areas of your life does this speak freedom to you? How can you remind yourself daily that Jesus is interceding for you in your weakness? How does this change your perspective of God and how perfectly He loves you?

### **PRAY:**

Dear Father in Heaven, thank you that your heart is always for us. You continue to pursue us with a love that is more perfect than we can fully understand. You have given us a new start in Christ - a brand new identity as your child. May we live in the freedom you have given us, and run to you whenever we sin, knowing that you are ready and willing to pour out your mercy on us. In Jesus name, Amen

**GOING DEEPER:**

Scripture is overflowing with examples of broken people, broken things, broken situations, and broken hearts. God loves to use broken things - this is the essence of the gospel. This week, take some time to find examples of brokenness in the Bible. (For example, Jesus broke five loaves to feed the crowd, Mary broke her alabaster jar to bless Jesus, Christ's body was broken in death, etc.) Why do you think Jesus longs for broken people to come to Him? What brokenness have you tried to hide from Him? How can you trust that His heart is for you today, and bring all your brokenness to Him?

**SUPPORTING VERSES:**

Isaiah 49:8

**QUOTES**

"Christ died to confound our intuitive assumption that divine love has an expiration date."  
*Ashton Morgan*

"At the root of each and every sin, and each and every problem, is unbelief and a rejection of the gospel. People who are immoral and people who are moral both reject the gospel when they try to be their own savior."  
*Tim Keller*

"When you sin, do a thorough job of repenting. Re-hate sin all over again. Consecrate yourself afresh to the Holy Spirit and his pure ways. But reject the devil's whisper that God's tender heart for you has grown a little colder, a little stiffer. His is not flustered by your sinfulness. His deepest disappointment is with your tepid thoughts of his heart."  
*Dane Ortlund*