



**WE ARE**  
**IMPERFECT**  
**PEOPLE**  
**WHO HAVE**  
**BEEN MOVED**  
**BY THE**  
**PERFECT LOVE**  
**OF JESUS.**

**April 24: Gospel Identity**

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# Imperfect People

We believe the gospel, that Jesus died and rose again to bring forgiveness of sin and reunion with God, is the most powerful act of love ever committed in history. Not a single human throughout history has been perfect, except Jesus. It is his perfect love moving in us through the Holy Spirit that transforms our minds and hearts to repent and believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

When we have put our faith in Jesus, we are called to be his disciples (followers). This is a radical call to live out every aspect of our life with Christ as our foundation. This is not natural for any of us, so this series will challenge each of to pursue spiritual growth, to walk by faith, and to gain deeper understanding of the marks of a disciple.

In this series, we will highlight the 7 Marks of a Disciple that each of us at PBC is pursuing as we follow Jesus together. Sanctification is a life-long process that increasingly enables us to live as salt and light in this world to glory of God. These seven marks are our humble attempt to summarize the transformation God is working out in each of us.

How to use this study guide:

- Gather with us each Sunday to praise God and take notes in this guide from the sermon.
- Study the passage for the week in your Community Group to further discuss each mark of a disciple.
- Dive deeper each week by reading the additional passages provided and meditating on how you still need to grow.





# Gospel Identity

## Community Group Discussion

The gospel is a simple yet profound declaration of the love of God. For those who believe, our identity is transformed by the reality of this love. In Adam, we were separated from the God who created us, whose image we bear, by whom we are created to be known. But in Christ we are known, forgiven, and loved. This changes everything.

### Discussion Questions:

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 together. How does Paul summarize the gospel in this passage?
- How did the gospel transform Paul's life?
- How are you moved to change based on your identity in Christ?

### Deeper Study:

John 3:1-21 ; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Romans 5:19; Romans 8:12-17;  
Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Acts 2:38



# Biblical Framework

## Community Group Discussion

As followers of Jesus, we are a community that seeks to have our worldview shaped by the Bible. There are a number of competing philosophies, "wise teachers", and ways of life in our world, but God's people have always been dedicated to being led by the word of God. The story of rebellion and redemption contained in the pages from Genesis and Revelation reveals a divine plan that began the moment God spoke creation into existence. Having a rich understanding of the Bible empowers us to live with wisdom, charity, and hope.

### Discussion Questions:

- Read Psalm 119:97-104 together. How does this Psalm exhort us to study the Scriptures (the "Law")?
- How does a biblical framework impact the way we understand what is happening in our lives?
- What can you do to take the next step in deepening your understanding of the Bible?

### Deeper Study:

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Deuteronomy 6:4-9;  
Matthew 7:24; Luke 4:1-12; Psalm 19:7-11; John 1:1-18



# Spirit Reliance

## Community Group Discussion

Jesus insisted to his disciples, it is far better for us to have the Holy Spirit with us than for Jesus himself to remain on this earth. Even before his death and resurrection, Jesus promised that a "helper" would come to empower his followers to continue building God's kingdom. God's plan does not leave us without his presence, rather through union with Christ we encounter far more intimate relationships with God, the Holy Spirit.

### Discussion Questions:

- Read John 16:4b-15 together. What surprises you about this passage?
- How does this passage reflect the role the Holy Spirit plays in building God's Kingdom?
- How do you seek to be reliant upon the Holy Spirit in your own life?

### Deeper Study:

1 Corinthians 6:18-19; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Acts 1:8;

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Galatians 4:6



# Generous Stewardship

## Community Group Discussion

Our culture urges us to seek a constant deluge of money, things, and all other manner of wealth. Americans seem to have a never-ending thirst for more. Even when the raise comes, the new house is bought, and the boat is in the dock, it's time to level-up. On the contrary, Christians are called to live content with the provision of God, even sacrificially living below our means in order to generously provide for the needs of other. This requires both spiritual and practical disciplines to assess our own finances and be wise stewards of what God has given us.

### Discussion Questions:

- Read Matthew 6:19-21 together. How does this passage describe the way we should view wealth?
- Why might the gospel give us a different perspective on money?
- How does the life of Jesus model changes you might need to make in your own life regarding your finances?

### Deeper Study:

1 Timothy 6:17-19; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Philippians 4:10-20;  
Proverbs 14:21; Exodus 20:17



# Deep Connection

## Community Group Discussion

The beauty of the gospel is that at the heart of it all is God's design and plan for recovering intimate relationships between us and him. However, the faith is not one that we live in isolation, but rather in rich community with other believers. We were created to live deeply connected to God and others; the gospel empowers us to experience community fully.

### Discussion Questions:

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:20-26 together. What stands out in this passage describing the way we relate to one another in the church?
- The gospel binds a cast of unlikely friends, even enemies, into one community. How does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus overcome the barriers to intimacy?
- In what ways do you still need to grow to experience deeper connections?

### Deeper Study:

Galatians 6:1-10; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:1-13;

Revelation 21:1-7



# Renewing Rest

## Community Group Discussion

When was the last time you took a day off? Not just from your job, but an actual day to rest, pray, and praise God for the breath in your lungs. Each of us has an internal draw to keep working, keep going, keep scraping together the energy to finish out one more day. For some of us, we can't imagine stopping. We have to be in control and can't let everything fall apart, even for a single break. For others, we're burned out and exhausted, but we have no idea how to stop. This is the challenge of the gift of sabbath rest. God calls us to rely on his sovereignty over our strength, and stop.

### Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 20:8-11 together. How does this passage describe the purpose of sabbath?
- What does the gospel change about our view of Sabbath?
- What would it feel like to set aside one day a week to rest?

### Deeper Study:

Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:27; Colossians 2:16; Hebrews 4:8-10;  
Leviticus 23:3



# Missional Engagement

## Community Group Discussion

When was the last time you took a day off? Not just from your job, but an actual day to rest, pray, and praise God for the breath in your lungs. Each of us has an internal draw to keep working, keep going, keep scraping together the energy to finish out one more day. For some of us, we can't imagine stopping. We have to be in control and can't let everything fall apart, even for a single break. For others, we're burned out and exhausted, but we have no idea how to stop. This is the challenge of the gift of sabbath rest. God calls us to rely on his sovereignty over our strength, and stop.

### Discussion Questions:

- Read Matthew 28:16-20 together. This passage is known as the Great Commission. What are key elements of the commission?
- How does this command rely on our understanding of the gospel?
- In what ways does this passage challenge you?

### Deeper Study:

Acts 1:8; John 20:31; Colossians 1:28; Matthew 25:31-40

# Additional Resources

*The Reason for God by Timothy Keller*

*God's Kingdom through God's Covenants by Peter J. Gentry and Stephen J. Wellum*

*Forgotten God by Francis Chan*

*Life in Community by Dustin Willis*

*The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn*

*The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer*

*Something Needs to Change by David Platt*



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