

Discovering your identity and purpose

Who are you and who are you becoming? One of the key tasks of our apprenticeship to Jesus is discovering our identity and calling. Knowing who you are and who God made you to become is a profound realization for every follower of Jesus. This workshop will give you some ideas to work through the practice with your community as you learn to become the person God designed you to be.

1. TEACHING – IDENTITY & PURPOSE – *Being Renewed:*

Introduction to the practice

- a. There's good news and bad news ...
- b. Why is it important?

Examples:

John 1:19-23 (John the Baptist)

Luke 3:21-22, 4:16-21 (Jesus)

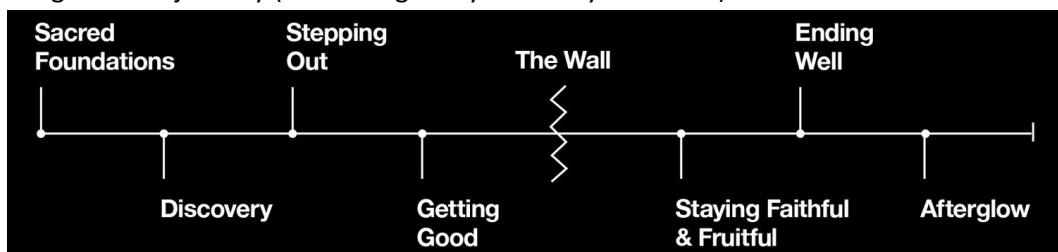
Matthew 16:17-19 (Peter)

Titus 1:1-4 (Paul)

- c. It's a bit of a different practice ...

1. Discovering your identity and purpose ... is a journey

- a. Psalm 139:13-16, Ephesians 2:10 and Acts 20:22-24 – discovering and living into your identity and purpose as a lifelong activity.
- b. Stages of the journey (which stage do you think you are in?):



2. Discovering your identity and purpose ... means knowing your core identity

- a. What the Bible says about our core identity:

Genesis 1:27: So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

1 Peter 2:9: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- b. Ephesians 1:3-14 – who we are in Christ (read all of Ephesians!)
- c. What are some ways we can practise reminding ourselves of who we truly are? What difference can this make in our lives?

3. Discovering your identity and purpose ... means an inward journey that includes discovering your flaws

- a. Matthew 9:12-13: *It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. ... For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*
- b. Galatians 5:16-26 and examples of different 'layers' of sin in our lives:
 - i. gross (obvious) sins
 - ii. deliberate sins – socially acceptable but not the way of Jesus
 - iii. unconscious sins – blind spots in our thinking, attitudes, motivation etc.
 - iv. 'trust structure' sins – ways in which we rely on ourselves rather than God

4. Discovering your identity and purpose ... means an outward journey that includes working out your gifts

- a. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11: one Spirit, but differences can be used ...
 - ... in service to God
 - ... in different kinds of working
 - ... for the common good

Visit <https://practicingtheway.org/practices/identity-and-calling> to listen to the following teachings and ideas how to discover identity and calling. You can also find recommended reading on this practice.



The Journey – The practice of discovering your identity and calling starts with an overview of the journey all followers of Jesus are invited to go on. In ways that few people recognize, the journey into self-awareness is also the road to spiritual formation. As we become more like Jesus, we become more like our real, true self. It takes courage to go on this journey, but it's worth every harrowing, beautiful step.

<https://practicingtheway.org/identity/week-one>

Identity - For most of us, our identity is rooted in earth – what we do, what we have, what other people think of us, etc. But for followers of Jesus our identity is rooted in who we are becoming in him. In this teaching, we explore a theology of identity from Ephesians. <https://practicingtheway.org/identity/part-two>

Calling: The Inward Journey - You can't get very far down the path of transformation until you discover your identity and calling, but this journey of self-discovery takes us straight into the maw of the beast: our sin. And even more: what some call our "shadow side." But until we expose our blind spots to the light, we will never experience the life that Jesus has for all his followers. <https://practicingtheway.org/identity/part-three>

Calling: The Outward Journey - We often think of work as a means to an end, to get what we need to do what we want. Our work environment tends to be overlooked when we think of true ministry. But what if we could discover ways to have our inner calling as Jesus followers move it's way outward and into our vocation? This teaching unpacks the value of a kingdom-minded work ethic. <https://practicingtheway.org/identity/part-four>

2. PRACTICE – IDENTITY & PURPOSE – Being Intentional:

What are some practical steps that can help us to better understand our flaws as well as to identify our gifts and strengths?

What are some ways we can practise discovering your identity and purpose over time?

Visit <https://practicingtheway.org/practices/identity-and-calling> and click on each of these circles for more ideas and resources how to discover more of your identity and calling.



1

The Journey

So many followers of Jesus spend years, and waste copious amounts of energy, living into a parody of their real, true self.

2

Identity

The Bible says those who are in Christ are a new creation. Followers of Jesus, we have been given a new identity.

3

The Enneagram

The Enneagram is a theory of personality that's been used as a tool for spiritual formation for over a thousand years.

4

Myers-Briggs

Everybody has unique skills, talents, loves, ways of thinking, and ways of being that are part of God's design.

5

Habit Audit

The things we do also do something to us. You are, in one sense, the cumulative effect of your habits.

6

Habit Swap

Jesus' goal for our lives is transformation; a deep healing, freedom, and change in the core of our being.

3. TAKE STEPS TO GROW IN COMMUNITY:

- To grow in this practice, what is **one idea you want to experiment with this coming week / month?** How will you do that?
- Is there someone that you could connect with for mutual encouragement, learning and accountability to deepen in this practice?**¹ It might be your spouse, sibling, close friend, someone in your life group or someone else at this workshop.

*Discovering your God given identity is 50% of what we focus on in the Purpose Discovery Course <https://www.seed.org.au/purpose/>. To find out about the next group at TCBC email mike@tcbc.org.au

¹ This a practical way we can fulfill our vision together at TCBC "Transforming lives through Christ-centred community"

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).