

The Foundation of Faith

Life Group Questions for May 17, 2026
Count the Stars Sermon Series

Welcome & Check-In

- Icebreaker question: *Do you know the meaning of your name? (If not, do a quick google search). Share the meaning of your name with your group and if applicable, how have you seen that meaning lived out in your life?*
- *Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?*

FOLLOWING JESUS: Scripture & Reflection

1. Read Genesis 17:1-27 out loud as a group.
What words or phrases stand out to you?
What questions do you have?
2. Read Romans 4:17-21 and Hebrews 11:1 then consider the following:
In Genesis 17, God gives Abram a new name *before* his circumstances change.
Why do you think God speaks identity before fulfillment?
Where have you seen this in your own journey with Jesus?
3. Read Romans 2:28-29. These verses speak of a "circumcision of the heart."
What might God be wanting to cut away in you in this season—pride, fear, self-reliance, false identity, shame, control, or something else?

IN COMMUNITY: Sharing & Support

4. Read each of the following statements and the verses attached out loud as a group.
You are a child of God (John 1:12)
You are forgiven (Ephesians 1:7)
You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
You are chosen and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12)
You are no longer condemned (Romans 8:1)
You are God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)
You are more than a conqueror through Christ (Romans 8:37)
Share where you have seen one of these statements evidenced in your life.
Which is the hardest for you to fully believe for yourself?
5. Ryan reminds us, "our standing with God is not built on what we do for him, but on trusting (faith!) what he has already done and promised for us."
This is seen as we consider the following: Foundation first, then the walls.
Identity first, then obedience.
Grace first, then transformation.
When have you obeyed out of self-will rather than a place of knowing "who" you are and "whose" you are?
How has performance-based Christianity shaped your relationship with God or others?
What would it look like to live from acceptance instead of for acceptance?

ON MISSION: Next Steps

6. Abraham's faith was formed over decades, including long seasons of silence and waiting.
How does his story challenge our culture's desire for instant results and quick spiritual growth?
How does it challenge you?
7. What would it look like for you, in your home, workplace, friendships, or ministry to become more grounded in the truth: "I belong to Jesus"?
What specific change is God calling you to so as to more evidently live as one who can say, "I know who I am and whose I am?"
8. Revisit and add to your prayer list, then pray for one another.

Prayer:

"Thank you Father for making me exactly as you want me to be. My identity is grounded in Christ alone. Help me to fully know and believe "who" I am and "whose" I am, even when I don't feel like trusting you. I commit to believing your promises, even before they are fulfilled. I belong to Jesus – I am purchased by his blood, covered by his grace, and marked by his Spirit. Help me to practice these truths every day as I seek to live out of the fullness of your amazing grace. In Jesus' name, Amen."

For Further Reflection this Week:

Living out of the fullness of who God created each one of us to be takes practice. This week, as false identities creep in, step into the following practices:

1. **Reject and remove false identities.**

Pay attention to where you get your worth, security, and validation.

What crushes you when it's threatened?

What makes you feel valuable when it's going well? Success, approval, relationships, appearance, control – those things make terrible foundations.

Identify the lie and intentionally remove it. You may want to write the lie on a piece of paper and then deliberately tear it up and throw it out.

2. **Replace lies with truth.**

*Remove false identities, AND **replace** them.*

Saturate your mind with what God says about who you are in Christ.

Rehearse it daily.

Speak the truth out loud when shame, fear, or insecurity want to take over. Abraham had to learn to trust God's declaration over his circumstances.

3. **Reinforce it through practices.**

Spend time with Jesus. Worship. Receive communion thoughtfully. Live in Christian community. Obey from acceptance, not for acceptance.

Identity is not just learned intellectually; it gets formed through repeated practices and relationships.

We are formed into the image of Christ as we Follow Jesus in Community on Mission.

Visit the "Resource" page on the EFCC website for Spiritual Practices and the Daily Fill Devotionals. [Resources – Emmanuel Faith Community Church](#)