



## Week One

### Opening Prayer

God, thank you for giving us the gift of community. Help us to connect with one another and to hear from you today. Amen.

### Talk It Over

This week we heard from, Chris Shinnick, our first gift guest speaker for this new series. Throughout this series, guest speakers will be joining us to teach an important Biblical truth. Chris spoke to us about living the life God has called each of us to live.

- What comes to mind — negative or positive — when you consider living the life God has for you?
- How has this idea of living the life God has for you evolved over the course of your life?

### Read Ephesians 4:1 (ESV)

One of the ideas we see in the Bible is that God doesn't simply ask us to live a certain way, he invites us to start by recognizing and remembering who we are in relationship with him. In other words, a key piece of living out our calling is finding our identity in God first and foremost.

- What are some of the things you know the Bible or God says about our identity?
- What good might come out of focusing on your identity in Christ before focusing on your behavior?

This week we looked at a story laid out in 1 Samuel where David finds himself preparing to engage in violent, foolish act with a foolish man.

- Can someone give a two minute recap of the big idea from the David, Nabal, and Abigail story? If not, check out the simple, recap below.

### A Simple Recap of the David, Nabal, and Abigail Story:

David was confronted with a foolish man, Nabal, and David started reacting in foolish ways. Nabal had treated David poorly; he was clearly disrespectful to David and provoked David. David was preparing to react to Nabal's foolishness by using his powerful army to act in violent ways. Thankfully, Nabal's wife, a discerning women named Abigail, was able to remind David of his position with God before he went too far. And thankfully, David was mature enough to hear Abigail's words. In turn, David chose to respond to the foolish man with wisdom and clarity, and he allowed God to work the situation out in a way God saw fit.

### This story was used to help us see the following three points:

#### 1. A Fool's Game: Stepping away from God's call on your life.

David almost missed what God had for him because he was tempted to react impulsively. His temptation wasn't the problem here, it was the fact he was going to act on his temptation to take matters into his own hands.

*(Content continued on the next page.)*

- How would you define temptation?
  - Tell us about a time you were tempted to act in one way, but you knew or were reminded of the fact that you were made to be someone different.
- 2. A Worthy Walk: Remembering who God has called you to be and walking it out.**
- David was tempted to react impulsively, but thanks to Abigail's help, David remembered who he was and what God was inviting him into. David showed maturity in his willingness to own his mistake and adjust his behavior.
- Tell us about someone who has reminded you of who you are and has helped you walk out your calling.
  - What are some things we can do or say to help others around us walk out a calling worthy of who they are?
- 3. Challenge: Cultivate a lifestyle that helps you remember who God has called you to be and enables you to walk it out daily.**
- What are some practical ways you can remember who God has called you to be in the midst of normal, everyday life?

### **Closing Prayer**

God, thank you for your love and leadership. Help us to remember who we are in you and what sort of life you have invited us into. We want to live out the calling you have for us. Amen.

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### **How To Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group connect in friendship and grow faith.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith for your specific group.

Spend some time praying about your group, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance regarding your specific group.