

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry
September 22, 2024
Getting Our Bearings
Who am I?

15 Minutes Gathering, Hospitality, Check-in with Each Other...

Talk about a defining event that helped, or a person who helped you discover your unique identity as a child of God.

What does the cross say about the identity of Jesus?

Opening Prayer O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

45 Minutes Discussion Questions:

Read Mark 9:30-37 What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

Why do you think Jesus needed to tell his disciples more than once about the challenges he would face to accomplish his mission?

How does this encounter between Jesus and his disciples help to clarify the identity of Jesus for them and for us? How is the identity of Jesus reflected in our own identity and actions? Why do you think Jesus used the example of the child in this circumstance?

What is the difference between being “childish” and “childlike”? How do we welcome Jesus by welcoming the child?

If our identity is not based on “who is the greatest?” What alternative examples does Jesus use in contrast to childish expectations of the world? How is our world different when we reflect a child-like faith in our everyday life?

Read James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a What does this passage say about our identity with Jesus?

What are some examples of “wisdom from above” in contrast with “wisdom of the world” in our day? What suggestion does the book of James make to reflect more of that “wisdom from above” in our daily lives? How does that kind of wisdom help to define our identity?

20 Minutes Prayer Requests and Prayer

10 Minutes Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session