
RENOVATE

TO MAKE NEW



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FLOW OF A RENOVATE SESSION

SOCIALIZE (10 MINUTES)

Spend a few minutes getting to know one another and catching up.

DISCUSS (10 MINUTES – OPTIONAL)

Talk about the homework completed the previous week:

Was anything helpful to you? If so, what?

What was more challenging than you expected?

WATCH (15 MINUTES)

The video session enhances the materials in the workbook by providing additional content on the topic.

DISCUSS (45 MINUTES)

The Discussion Questions provided in each session help participants explore the topic in conversation with one another. The questions are designed to allow people the freedom to reveal tensions or struggles with the topic, make personal discoveries, or think more about the subject.

REVIEW THE HOMEWORK (5 MINUTES)

The *Renovate* experience is different for each person. Some people may choose to skip certain exercises, while others will choose to complete all of them. Assure participants that they have the freedom to do as much or as little of the homework as they desire.

PRAY (5 MINUTES)

Sharing prayer requests and praying for one another is an important part of the experience. It is also okay for a participant not to share anything. Pressure should never be applied to disclose prayer requests.

5

Draw Up the Plan

SESSION 5: DRAW UP THE PLAN

When you were little, people probably asked you, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” What they were really asking is, “What do you want to *do*?”

We spend much of our lives creating labels for ourselves in an effort to define who we are. What if God created you with an altogether different identity in mind?

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

When you became a Christian, you gained a new identity. You became a new creation in Christ, and a child of God. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.”

Knowing your new identity doesn’t mean you won’t still be tempted to return to your old way of thinking and your old identity. If you continue to identify with who you used to be and how you used to act, you will continue to live the way you used to live.

CONCLUSION

How do you know if you are finding your identity in something or someone? Ask yourself:

“Would I be devastated if I lost it?”

“Do I want it more than I want God?”

Too many Christians don’t know who they are in Christ and continually struggle to find their value in relationships, possessions, and accomplishments. As you read the Bible, you will discover the offer of a new identity. This new identity, however, is challenging to accept because it goes against what culture tells you to believe about yourself. In Christ, a new identity is available that is strong, clear, and unchanging.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

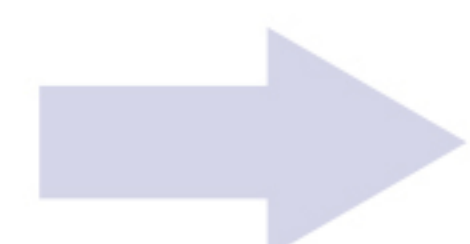
(Part 1)

1. Complete the following sentence: *I am* _____.
Why do you think you define yourself that way?

2. During the video, Rodney says we were created to have God tell us we're valuable. Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. What thing or person do you believe you couldn't live without? When you think about prioritizing God above that thing or person, which emotions are stirred in you?

Following *Discussion Questions 1–3*, complete the following *In-Session Activity*.



IN-SESSION ACTIVITY

Below is a list of truths about your new identity in Christ. Give each statement below a 1, 2, 3, or 4 using these definitions:

1 = I do not believe this.

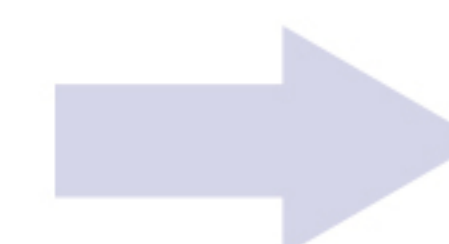
2 = I struggle to believe this.

3 = I believe this in my head.

4 = I believe this in my head and my heart.

IN CHRIST...

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am part of God's family.	To those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12
<input type="checkbox"/>	I belong to God.	You were bought at a price. 1 Corinthians 6:20
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am chosen by God.	For he chose us ... before the creation of the world. Ephesians 1:4
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am forgiven.	In [Jesus] we have ... the forgiveness of sins. Ephesians 1:7
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am blameless.	There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am not condemned.	For he chose us ... to be blameless in his sight. Ephesians 1:4
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am included.	You also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth. Ephesians 1:13
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am righteous and holy.	But you are a chosen people ... a holy nation, God's special possession. 1 Peter 2:9



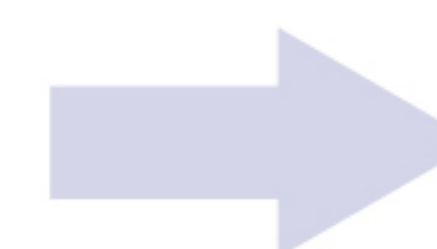
IN CHRIST...

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am near to God.	You who were once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am safe.	[Jesus] keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 1 John 5:18
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am new.	If anyone is in Christ . . . the old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can't be separated from God's love.	Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:39
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am protected.	The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10
<input type="checkbox"/>	I belong to the light, not the darkness.	You are all children of the light . . . We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 1 Thessalonians 5:5
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have everything I need.	Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap . . . yet God feeds them [so consider] how much more valuable you are than the birds. Luke 12:24
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a citizen of heaven.	They were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:16
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a stranger to this world.	Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:11
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am secure.	You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow . . . members of [God's] household, with Christ Jesus as the chief cornerstone. Ephesians 2:19–20
<input type="checkbox"/>	I house the Holy Spirit within me.	Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 1 Corinthians 3:16
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am not alone.	God has said, "Never will I leave you." Hebrews 13:5

IN CHRIST...

<input type="checkbox"/>	I have the mind of Christ.	We have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am greatly loved.	[You are] God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved. Colossians 3:12
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am free from the power of sin.	Our old self was crucified with [Jesus] so that... we should no longer be slaves to sin. Romans 6:6
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am connected to Jesus.	I [Jesus] am the vine; you are the branches... remain in me and I in you. John 15:5
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a friend of Jesus.	I [Jesus] no longer call you servants... Instead I have called you friends. John 15:15
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am complete in Jesus.	For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness (<i>completeness</i>). Colossians 2:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not need to be in control because God is in control.	Many are the plans in a person's mind, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21

Once you have completed the activity, continue the *Discussion Questions* on the following page.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Part 2)

4. What trends emerged as you worked through the *In-Session Activity*? (Are there statements you struggle to believe? Is it common for you to believe statements in your head but not in your heart?)

5. Pick one of the “In Christ...” statements you struggle to believe. What is one thing you can do this week to surrender that truth to Christ? How can this group support you?

PRIMER:

THE HOMEWORK FOR THIS WEEK

- Read Session 6, pp. 64–65. (5 minutes)

SECOND COAT:

IF YOU WANT MORE

- Spend some additional time reading your *In Christ* activity, pp. 59–61. Think about the content from this session.