

Garden City Disciple Making Training
Week 5: Pillar 2 - Identity in Christ

I. **WELCOME & INTRO** *5 MINUTES*

- A. Week 5 of disciple making
- B. Start with celebrations and discussion as we always do.
- C. **More** than just clap, we're gonna **really celebrate** and make **some noise**.
- D. Encourage Eden Center and online. Get involved.
- E. They'll give their name, and we'll say hi.

II. **TESTIMONIES:** *5 MINUTES*

- A. Emilia Zola

III. **KICKOFF REVIEW** *5 MINUTES*

- A. Begin with **KICKOFF**. It's a time to catch up with people and find out how the week has been personally and as it's related to the tools.

SLIDE:

KICKOFF: A time of questions and accountability designed to catch up with people and find out how their week has been, both personally and as it's related to the tools.

- B. Kickoff can be remembered by the phrase "**UP, DOWN, AROUND, OUT, IN**".
- C. **Hand motions**
- D. Put the questions on screen.

SLIDE:

UP: What are you thankful for this week?

DOWN: What has been difficult or discouraging? What would help make this better?

AROUND: Do you know of any needs in your community? How can I/we help?

OUT: How are you doing with engaging people? (D.P.C., tools, etc.)

IN: How are you doing with your “I will” statements?

- E. **UP** has to do with the high point of a person's week.
- F. **DOWN** is a low point of their week and what role the Lord might have you play in showing the love of God to the person.
- G. **AROUND** has to do with the needs around the other person.
- H. **OUT**- this time I want to focus on simply engagement. It requires an intentionality not to be caught up in our own world and circle.
- I. **IN**- Ask about I will statements in general, since it's been a few weeks since we've been together.
- J. For either IN or OUT, no matter how big or small, **celebrate any level of action**
- K. Be honest about where you are, and what might be hindering you if you're not seeing growth or consistency in some of these areas. No guilt or shame. We're trying to develop a real sense of community.
- L. Pray for grace, and of course, ask if there is a way you can help.
- M. If you partner with someone new, explain what we're doing.
- N. The table leader can help you if need be.
- O. 15 total, 5 minute timer to wrap up.

IV. **DISCUSSION TIME- 15 minutes**

(Approx. 30 minutes / 11:00a)

V. **FOUNDATIONAL PASSAGE 5 minutes**

- A. Foundational passage—**Mark 3:13-15**.

SLIDE:

And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons. -Mark 3:13-15

VI. INTRODUCE PILLAR & TITLE *10 minutes*

- A. Our second pillar comes from the phrase “those whom he desired.”
- B. It shows us that Jesus called us because he wants us– He us to be **with Him** and wants to be **with us**.
- C. It speaks to our identity in Christ and how you ought to see yourself–as someone loved and desired by Jesus.
- D. The purpose of this pillar is to help us understand who we are in Christ.
- E. The title of this pillar is “Identity in Christ” and we use **Ephesians 1:1-14** as a reference passage.
- F. In the book of Ephesians, we find a beautiful description of the many spiritual blessings God has given us in Christ. In this list, we also find twelve elements of our identity.
- G. Let's read it together:

SLIDE:

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9

making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

H. The tool will teach you how to outline and display the twelve elements mentioned in this passage in a way that will help you understand them and share them with others.

VII. A WORD FOR UNBELIEVERS *5 minutes*

1. Not Christian household.
2. May have noticed that no less than a dozen times, it says “in Christ”, “in Him” “through him”, and similar phrases.
3. He is highlighting that that what he is sharing is not how God sees us in and of ourselves.
4. It’s what he has done for us and how he views us through the lens of Jesus.
5. For example God loves everyone, but it doesn’t mean everyone is adopted.
6. Just because someone is a nice person who does good deeds, doesn’t make them sealed with God’s Spirit.
7. You might not be a follower of Jesus, but as we go over these things, listen from the perspective that God wants to bring you into all of these things.

(11:25a)

VIII. ELEMENTS OF IDENTITY. (Draw & notes)

A. SAINT & HOLY

1. The first element we see is in verse 1. It says we are saints.

SLIDE:

1- To the saints who are in Ephesus

2. Let's **write** that at the top of the heart, **label** it #1, and **underline** it.
3. Also write **Holy next to Saint**.
4. In verse 4, God says you are holy which **means the same thing**, so we will write that next to saint.

SLIDE:

4- holy and blameless before him

5. They both mean to be **set apart** by God, for God.
6. We'll use "Set apart" as a short definition, and **write it underneath**.

B. BLESSED

1. The second element is in verse 3. It says we are blessed.

SLIDE:

3- blessed us in Christ

2. Write blessed as the second element.
3. To be blessed means that you have God's favor on you.
4. Write, "God's favor" as a definition.

C. CHOSEN

1. The third element we see is in verse 4. It says that we are chosen.

SLIDE:

4- he chose us

2. Another word for chosen is selected. God **selected us because of his love for us**, so we will write, “Lovingly selected” as the definition.

D. REFLECTION *3 minutes*

1. Take a moment to think about these three elements of our identity in Christ. Which one of them is most meaningful to you and why?
2. Not in Christ—which one do you think **would be** most meaningful?
3. It is important that you write down.
4. Normally share, but we’ll do it later for time.

(11:34a)

E. BLAMELESS

1. The fourth element of our identity also comes from verse 4. It says that we are blameless.

SLIDE:

4- holy and blameless before him

2. It means that we have been **cleansed** of all our sins. We will write “**Clean**” as the short definition.

F. LOVED

1. The fifth element is also in verse 4. It shows us that we are loved.

SLIDE:

4- In love (He predestined us)

2. To be loved by God means that his affection rests on us. We’ll use “God’s affection” as our short definition.

H. PREDESTINED

1. Number six is in verse 5, and says that we were predestined.

SLIDE:

5- He predestined us

2. The word predestined means that God had a **plan for your life before he created the world**. You have purpose and your life has meaning. We'll write purpose and meaning as the definition.
3. Address depression and suicide

I. REFLECTION *3 minutes*

1. Out of these three elements, numbers 4-6, which one is most meaningful to you and why?
2. Not in Christ—which one do you think **would be** most meaningful?
3. Write down your answer.

J. I WILL *3 minutes*

1. Based on everything we talked about, especially the two elements that were most meaningful to you, how do you think God wants you to respond or change?
2. How can you take action on it in the next 48 hours?
3. Write down your answer as an "I will" statement.

SLIDE:

I will _____, and will _____ in the next 48 hours.

K. DISCUSSION *8 minutes*

1. Share
2. Listen for measurable and time base
3. Pray—God, please help them / Thank you for sharing

(11:53a)

L. ADOPTED

1. The seventh element of our identity is also in verse 5.
2. It tells us that we have been adopted.

SLIDE:

5- adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ

3. To be adopted means that God loved you so much that he brought you into his family and made you his child.
4. We will use “Beloved child” as the short definition.

M. REDEEMED

1. Number eight is in verse 7. It tells us that we have been redeemed.

SLIDE:

7- we have redemption through His blood

2. To redeem something means to purchase it. Jesus purchased us for himself with His own blood, which means we have great worth.
3. Short definition: Great worth

N. FORGIVEN

1. Number nine is also in verse 7 and says that we have been forgiven.

SLIDE:

7- the forgiveness of our trespasses

2. To be forgiven means that there is no more penalty for our previous sins.
3. We will use “No penalty” as our short definition.

O. REFLECTION *3 minutes*

1. Out of these three elements, numbers 7-9, which one is or **would be** most meaningful to you and why?

2. Write down your answer.

P. HEIR

1. Number 10 is in verse eleven. It says that in Christ, God has given us an inheritance.

SLIDE:

11- In him we have obtained an inheritance

2. The title for someone who has an inheritance is an heir, so we'll use the word "heir" to describe this element.
3. An inheritance is something you get when someone dies. For us that someone was Jesus.
4. Through Him, we have an inheritance of good things that will last forever!
5. We'll use "inheritance" as our short definition.

Q. SAVED

1. Number eleven comes from the phrase "gospel of your salvation" in verse 13.

SLIDE:

13- the gospel of your salvation

2. The gospel has saved us, so we'll use the word saved.
3. To be saved is to be rescued from the power and penalty of sin, death, and hell.
4. Rescued will be our short definition.

R. SEALED

1. The final element is in verse 13. It says that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

SLIDE:

13- sealed with the promised Holy Spirit

2. The passage tells us that the Holy Spirit is the seal or mark that you belong to God, and that he will fulfill his promises to you.
3. "Marked by God" will be our short definition.

S. REFLECTION *3 minutes*

1. Out of these three elements, numbers 9-12, which one is most meaningful or would be most meaningful to you and why?
2. Write down your answer.

T. I WILL *3 minutes*

1. Based on everything we talked about, especially the second two elements that were most meaningful to you, how do you think God wants you to respond or change?
2. How can you take action on it in the next 48 hours?
3. Write down your answer as an "I will" statement.

SLIDE:

I will _____, and will _____ in the next 48 hours.

U. DISCUSSION *8 minutes*

1. Share
2. Listen for measurable and time base
3. Pray- "God, please help them" / Thank you for sharing

(11:13a)

V. CONCLUSION *2 minutes*

1. Address unbelievers- **Invitation to follow**

2. Additional resources

W. CLOSING *2 minutes*

A. Share. Pray. Obey.

SLIDE:

Share: Draw the tool for someone you feel comfortable with (read & practice first).

Pray: Use this tool to pray into a deeper sense of your identity.

Obey: Take steps to fulfill your "I will" statement (accountability helps).

B. Pick up **children**, then come **fellowship**

C. Eden Center, please help with tables

D. Cookies