

STUDY GUIDES
WITH DAILY DEVOTIONS

**WHO
DO YOU
THINK
YOU ARE?**

MARK DRISCOLL



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I'm honored to serve as founding, preaching, and vision pastor of Mars Hill Church. This material was a collaborative effort between many different leaders and myself across many of the Mars Hill churches. I'd like to personally thank all who participated for their love for the Lord Jesus, their heart for His people, and their service to Mars Hill.

I believe this study guide is set apart from similar study materials because it was developed within an actual church community. I've seen firsthand the transforming power of Jesus in the lives of the very people who helped develop its content.

Thank you, Mars Hill Church. I am humbled and honored to serve King Jesus with you. For his glory, and our joy.

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INTRODUCTION

Who do you think you are?

How you answer that question has far-reaching, belief-revealing, life-shaping, and identity-forming implications. Your answer is the one thing that affects everything as your identity writes your testimony and determines your destiny. Tragically, few people—even few Bible-believing, Jesus-loving Christians—rightly answer that question.

People simply don't know who they are. The result is, they go looking to people or things to find their significance. When that happens our idolatry becomes our identity which leads to our misery.

The big idea of this study guide—your identity in Christ—is perhaps more timely than ever. Consider the added complexity brought by technology and the ever growing myriad of social media outlets. On the surface, these sites are all helpful for connecting people so they can get to know one another. But, the truth is we don't know who we are and so we are continually seeking to create an identity, present it to the world, make adjustments according to praise and criticism we receive, and lose sight of who we truly are. We don't know who we are, we don't know who our “friends” are, and they don't know who we are.

You aren't what's been done to you but what Jesus has done for you. You aren't what you do but what Jesus has done. What you do, or even who you portray yourself to be doesn't determine who you are. Rather, who you are in Christ determines what you do. These are fundamental truths that we'll explore in depth throughout this study guide.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

The Daily Devotions are a tool intended for families to help facilitate your time together in the Word of God.

Every day there is a new topic to discuss with lessons that will prepare everyone for the designated passage from the Bible. There are also a series of questions, illustrations, or exercises to help you dig deeper with life application and a suggested prayer.

Every family is different so don't feel bound by the format. Discuss the content in ways that your family relates to. Also, don't stress if you miss a night or get off track with your conversation. This is something that will inevitably happen, (especially with little kids!) so just plan for it and just pick-up where you left off.

Finally, these devotions are not a to-do-list to mark off. The goal is to help you create a home environment where your family regularly opens the Bible together and grows in love for Jesus, one another, your church, and the people in your life.

Enjoy your time together. Have some fun, enjoy some laughs, and build new memories together as you discover what it means as a family to find your identity in Christ.

HOW TO USE THE DAILY DEVOTIONS

The following devotions are offered with the hope of helping you and your children grow in relationship with one another and with Christ as you discover who you are in Him. Treat them as a guide to your family's devotional time together.

Every day you and your family are provided with a new topic to discuss. The lesson will prepare you for the designated Bible passage that you will read. Then, a series of questions, illustrations, or exercises will help you dig deeper into the passage and apply its message to your life. Each devotion is capped off with a suggested prayer.

Don't feel bound to follow every step, read every word, discuss each question, or pray every prayer. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading, and allow the conversation to progress as you best see fit at the time.

Also, don't stress if you miss a night or get off track with your conversation. This will inevitably happen, so be prepared to just pick up where you left off.

Finally, these devotions are not designed for you to place on your to-do list and mark off when they're completed. The goal of the daily devotions is to help create an environment in your household where your family regularly opens the Bible and grows in your love for Jesus, one another, your church, and the people in your life.

Enjoy this time together with your family. Have some fun, enjoy some laughs, and build new memories together. Discussing *Who Do You Think You Are?* will help you and your family learn who you are in Christ and experience the joy and freedom of a life founded and sustained in and by Jesus.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

This section of the study guide was designed with small groups in mind. Use the guide to keep notes and journal your answers as you walk through the weekly lessons.

Take some time before you meet to review the introduction and reacquaint yourself with the material in order to prepare for group discussion. Begin each time by watching a short video with reflection questions (this is included in the DVD Based Study or the DVD is sold separately) and / or by reading the scripture reflection. Questions are provided for each week and will help you explore the topics.

The last section describes a particular experience for your small group to participate in together. Most of the experiences will be done together as a group; others can be worked on alone. Look at the experiences ahead of time and set aside time or resources as necessary. The experience times are designed to deepen your understanding of your identity in Jesus and gives insights into growing the intimacy of your group and for reaching out to the community around you.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY STUDY

In recent years, Mars Hill church has developed a great women's ministry by God's grace. During the planning meetings, one thing came through loud and clear: the ladies of our church wanted to learn skills to study the Bible, and they wanted to study together.

When the ministry officially launched, we used a small groups curriculum that had been produced for a series we were going through together as a church. What we discovered was that between Sunday services, and mid-week small groups, going through the same material again was redundant at times. This is why the Women's study material was developed with an eye toward complimenting weekly rhythms of Sunday worship and small group meeting times.

HOW TO USE THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY STUDY

This portion of the Study Guide is a bit different in that it is an inductive study going through the book of Ephesians from the Bible.

Following the time of study and exploration, application questions are provided to assist small group leaders as they pursue their participants. Directed and purposeful focus on life application seeks to explore questions like: how does what I've learned change me? How does it change my view of Jesus' redemptive action? How does it change my view of others, my obedience, my repentance, and how does it affect how I serve my church and my community?

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY STUDY

It was clear that a women's study should be written for women, by women, in different stages of life. A young college single has much to learn from a newly married woman, just as the young married can glean from the wisdom of a woman that's been married for 40 years. And the authors of this content reflect that mix. Some are singles, young married, married with children of various ages (babies to teens), and even empty nesters. The women who wrote and edited this content are some of my wife Grace's nearest and dearest friends. Some of these women we have known for many years seeing them grow as

godly leaders in our church. We are deeply grateful for the hours and hours the team of women invested in the creation of this women's study guide. They did so as volunteers with other life responsibilities while still finishing their degree, working their job, raising their family, and serving in ministry. They did so because they love Jesus, they love local churches, and they love you.

I want to sincerely thank the women for creating a study guide that delivers rigorous theological information in a way that encourages practical life transformation.

WHAT IS AN INDUCTIVE STUDY?

An inductive study approach encourages digging deep into Scripture and employs an in-depth reading technique set in a discussion based setting. An inductive study asks the questions, "What does the Bible say, and what does it mean? What do we observe, and how should we interpret it in light of the whole truth of the Bible?"

This portion of the study guide is a great compliment to the Daily Devotional and Small Group material focused on delving deep into the text in a collaborative environment. As you steep in God's Word and apply it to your daily life, my hope is that you'll increasingly grow to encourage one another, pray for each other, confess sin, repent, and live out your identity in Christ in community.

STUDENT MINISTRY STUDY

The Student Ministry Study has been designed similarly as the Daily Devotions but is geared toward students and student leaders. Use it to take notes and jot down your answers to the questions as you go through the material.

Student leaders can download the *Leaders Guide* for free at pastormark.tv/campaignsThe *Leaders Guide* is designed to help assist you in teaching the material in your group.

Our hope is that, by the grace of God, and the Bible, through the power of the Holy Spirit, this Study Guide will help you to live an empowered Christian life. I'm convinced there is not better way to get these truths deep into our souls than through personal study of God's Word in community with God's people.

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WEEK 1

I AM _____ ?

DAY 1

He wanted to be someone different to get the attention of a girl he liked.

Aladdin was a common boy who thought he had no chance to be with Jasmine. But after discovering a magical lamp that contained a genie with the ability to grant him three wishes, Aladdin asked the genie to change him into a prince. If he could be a prince, he figured, then he would have a chance to win Jasmine's heart.

Throughout the story Aladdin struggles with who he is and thinks about telling Jasmine the truth. Eventually he gives up pretending to be a prince and goes back to being who he really is.

To his surprise, he discovers that Jasmine loves him just the way he is, not for who he was trying to be. In the end, Aladdin and Jasmine marry and live happily ever after.

Like Aladdin, we don't have to change who we are in order to win God's heart and be accepted by him. God accepts us in Christ as we are. Even better, he changes us into who he wants us to be.

Who do you think you are? Where do we even start to answer this enormous question? Let's start at the beginning.

Read *Genesis 1:26–27.*

We have been created in the image of God. This means that each and every one of us was made to reflect God to others as a mirror reflects our image.

Do you struggle with trying to be someone you're not? Why?

Take a mirror. Have everyone present take a look at the mirror and repeat the following message: "I have been created in the image of God."

Now ask, "What are the first thoughts that come to mind when you look in the mirror? Are they in line with what God says about you?"

Prayer

Thank God for creating you in his image. Specifically ask for his help in accepting his truth about who you are in Christ.

DAY 2

You and I were created as worshippers.

As worshippers, we are divided into two categories: those who worship the Creator and those who worship created things. Because of sin, we're prone to worship anyone and anything other than the God who made everyone and everything. This is what the Bible calls *idolatry*. In our own lives, then, idolatry occurs when we make a created thing a god thing, which is a bad thing.

Rather than worship these created things, God calls us to worship him. This doesn't mean we don't enjoy his creation; we just do so as an act of worship to him for his good gifts—not as an act of worship *of* his good gifts.

Read *Romans 1:21–25*.

How do we become guilty of not honoring or giving thanks to God? (*The answer can be found in verses 22–23.*)

What are some things that you put before God? (*Consider those things to which you devote your time and money.*)

On what do you spend your time and money? What does this say about who or what you worship?

Prayer

Ask God to reveal idols in your life so you can repent for worshipping them and worship Jesus wholeheartedly.

DAY 3

Often, the things we buy show others what we want them to think of us. The examples are endless and include such things as our cars, clothes, games, houses, jewelry, toys, and more.

We tend to view our possessions not for their use but rather for what they say about us. This is why many people think that wearing non-designer clothes, driving beat-up cars, or using anything but the newest gadget somehow devalues them.

The root of this problem is not in the mall and the things we buy. It's in us.

It's not a sin to buy things and even appreciate and enjoy them. But when those things become the source of our identity, we are guilty of idolatry. The things we own are like billboards of our lives. They advertise what we value and what we would like others to think about us. What does your billboard say about you?

Read Exodus 20:17.

What does it mean to covet? (*To intensely wish for; to strongly desire what belongs to someone else.*)

Are there particular things that you covet? If so, what do those things say about who you think you are or what you find important?

Prayer

Pray that God will protect you from coveting by giving you a greater love for Jesus (Rom. 13:9).

DAY 4

Life is filled with duties, starting with chores when we are young, then homework in school, job requirements in the workforce, ministry obligations in the church, relational duties in marriage, and parental and grandparental responsibilities in our families. Our duties are endless. Often they are noble, but when they become the source of our identity, they can destroy our souls.

At the end of the day, you are not what you do. Your duties do not define you as a person. You are defined by who you are in Christ.

Read Ephesians 2:8–10; 4:24.

By what and through whom are we saved? (By grace through faith in Jesus.)

Why is salvation considered a gift? (We cannot work for it. It is given to us by God, through Jesus.)

What type of work is prepared for us? Who prepared this work, and why did he prepare it? (Good works are prepared for us, and it is God who has prepared them, so that we may walk in them and be blessed. God's "good works" beat any earthly duty that we could ever worship.

On which duties do you base your identity? Discuss.

Prayer

Jesus defeated on the cross every idol in your life, including those duties that you pay too much attention. Pray that God will help you see your idols and then turn from them in repentance to God. Ask him to help you remember that your identity is who you are in Christ, not what you do.

DAY 5

Did you know that God created us for friendship? It's a good thing to have friends and people in your life. But, like all things, this good thing can become a good thing if our friends become the source of our identity.

Who is your best friend? With what group of people do you spend most of your time? How do you treat those who are not your friends or a part of your group?

It's important for us to be aware of the people with whom we spend our time and how they influence us to treat others. Our friends will either move us closer in our relationship with God or farther away from him.

Read *John 12:36–43.*

Jesus performed many miracles, but did people believe in him? (*See John 12:37.*)

Why did those in charge choose not to talk about Jesus? (*They desired people's approval more than they did God's.*)

Are your friends a good or bad influence in your life?

Prayer

Jesus is your perfect friend who can satisfy your desires for friendship and acceptance. Pray that God will forgive you for not accepting his friendship

and help you live your life in full devotion to him, not to other groups or individuals.

DAY 6

What do you long for? To be popular? To get your driver's license? A new gaming system? What we long for can give us a false hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

To live for what we long for is like being a small boat on the raging sea—we're always being tossed about. If our plans go well, we feel great and hopeful, as if nothing could ever go wrong. When things go bad in our plan, we feel terrible and hopeless, as if nothing is ever going to work out.

Who you are is not based on what you long for. Your identity is based on what Jesus Christ has done for you. Look to him and to what he has already done for you, and find your satisfaction in him.

Read *James 4:13-17*

What are your plans for the future?

Why does James say about making plans and talking about them? (*See James 4:14.*)

Discuss with a group or your family if there are situations and plans that they are expecting to work out in a certain way. Ask them what they would think and how they would feel if things didn't work out the way they expect.

Prayer

Pray that God will direct your longings in line with his longings for your life.

DAY 7

Have you ever suffered? Of course you have. Haven't we all?

As long as we live, there will be some level of suffering in our lives. We often suffer physically, emotionally, financially, mentally, relationally, and spiritually. If we're not careful, though, our suffering can easily shape what we think about ourselves.

As Christians, our suffering doesn't determine who we are. Rather, it leads us to Jesus, who suffered and died for us.

In Christ, we find grace to withstand our suffering and hope that one day, either in this life or the life to come, our suffering will end.

Read *Romans 5:1–5.*

What are the three reasons we can rejoice in our suffering? (*Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.*)

Discuss with your family how they respond to suffering. How does belonging to Jesus make a difference when you suffer?

Prayer

God gives us grace and hope during the times when we suffer. Ask God for his help in experiencing grace and hope in your suffering.

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