



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 5: Identity & Idolatry

Icebreaker: *NewStory Church is celebrating our 5th year anniversary! Take a moment to share one of the biggest way God has used NewStory Church to bless you!*

1. What are your thoughts about popular and general statements like: *We are all God's children!* How might passages like Galatians 3:26 and John 1:12; 14:6 help inform your theology?
2. How is the gospel exclusive? How is the gospel inclusive? What supporting Bible references can you give for each idea?
3. How does the Harvard Study of Adult Development's findings about deep relationships align with the message from Galatians 3:26-4:19? Where in that same biblical passage do you see the progression from one type of relationship to a deeper one? In what ways are those deeper relationships better?
4. IDENTITY & IDOLATRY were two key topics in this past Sunday's message. Share one aspect that impacted you most from either exploration of either topic.
5. The Apostle Paul was an incredibly cerebral individual and yet this letter he pens to the Galatians is filled with strong emotions and words. Paying special attention to contextual clues and punctuation, read aloud Galatians 1:6-7,10; 2:11; 3:1-5, 10, 21; 4:9-11,16, 20 in the voice you believe Paul wrote them. Why do you suppose Paul seem particularly aggravated in this epistle? (*When does the "Momma Bear" come out in you?*)
6. Discuss the following quote and answer where in your life there may be an idol/counterfeit god:

"A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living. An idol has such a controlling position in your heart that you can spend most of your passion and energy, your emotional and financial resources, on it without a second thought. It can be family and children, or career and making money, or achievement and critical acclaim, or saving 'face' and social standing. It can be a romantic relationship, peer approval, competence and skill, secure and comfortable circumstances, your beauty or your brains, a great political or social cause, your morality and virtue, or even success in the Christian ministry." (Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex and Power, and the Only Hope That Matters*)
7. The "jealousy" of God (Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:23,24) and His commands against idolatry (Exodus 20:3-6; Deuteronomy 5:7-10) are real. Discuss the connection between the two. Finally, how might a stronger grasp of your true IDENTITY in Christ, keep you from IDOLATRY?

