

Don’t Let Yesterday Decide Tomorrow

November 1, 2026

Read & Reflect

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Judges 6:11–16; John 21:15–19

As you read, notice the difference between how people see themselves and how God calls them forward. Where might an old label be shaping your choices?

Understand the Moment

In Judges 6, Gideon is hiding from Midian when God calls him a mighty warrior. Gideon sees weakness and insignificance; God promises His presence and gives him a task.

After Peter denies Jesus, the risen Jesus restores him and calls him to care for His people. Peter’s failure is real, but it does not have to end his calling.

In Christ, we are made new. Paul calls us to renew our minds, put off the old self, and press forward. Pastor Frank reminded us that our identity shapes our thinking, choices, and future. Painful memories may remain, but they do not have to define us. Following Jesus means learning to make decisions from who He says we are.

Process Together or Alone

- What role, experience, or label has most shaped how you see yourself?
- What does God’s response to Gideon reveal about Him?
- How does Jesus’ restoration of Peter challenge the way you view failure?
- Where does an old belief about yourself still influence your choices?
- What decision could reflect your identity in Christ rather than your past this week?

Follow Jesus This Week

Listen

- What might Jesus be saying about a label you still carry?
- Which truth in these readings do you need to receive today?

Obey

- What old way of thinking do you need to surrender to Jesus?
- When will you make one choice that reflects your new identity?

Share

- Who could you tell about what Jesus is changing in your life?
- Who can help you remember God’s truth when old labels return?

Care

- Who needs to hear that their past does not define their worth?
- How can you listen, pray with them, and follow up this week?



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Live It Out

Identify one area where you still make decisions based on who you used to be. Bring it to Jesus and try this rhythm:

Name. Remember. Choose. Share.

Name the old label or belief. Remember what Jesus says through Scripture. Choose one action that reflects His truth. Then share your step with a trusted believer and ask them to check in with you this week.

Before deciding, ask: Am I acting from what my past says about me, or who God says I am?

Remember: Don’t let yesterday decide tomorrow.

Pray

- Thank Jesus for making you new and welcoming you.
- Ask Him to reveal labels you have accepted.
- Pray for those carrying shame, painful memories, or loss.
- Ask for courage to act on what God says is true.
- Pray for someone who needs encouragement and community.

Jesus, thank You that my past does not have the final word. Help me receive the identity You have given me and renew the way I think. Meet me in the places that still hurt. Give me courage to take one faithful step, and surround me with people who point me toward You. Help me offer that same hope and care to others. Amen.

Group Leader Optional Questions

Opening Question:

When has a change in your role made you rethink where you find your identity?

Closing Reflection:

What one decision will reflect your identity in Christ, and who can encourage you?