



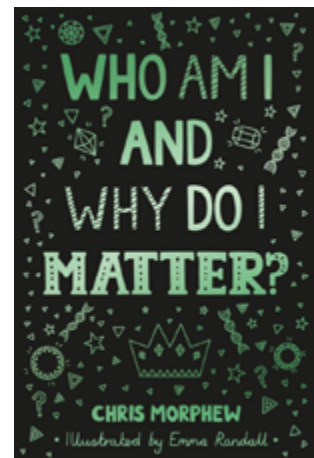
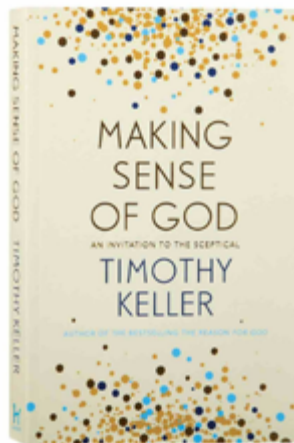
*Chasing
the
Wind*

THE LIES WE BELIEVE

*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak



RECOMMENDED READING LIST



CHASING THE WIND: THE LIES WE BELIEVE

Have you noticed that life is really busy at the moment?

Someone said that “the pace of change has never been this fast, yet it will never be this slow again.”

The current, non-stop, fill-every-moment lifestyle is a reality for everyone, and we’ll probably all agree that it’s tiring, and stretching us close to breaking point. However, no-one seems able to step out of the rat-race.

There are many reasons for the pace of life and the pace of change in our cultural moment, but one particular driver seems to be the question of WHO WE ARE. We seek to define ourselves through the things we do, the things we have, the people we know and the way we feel. We feel defined by our pasts and anxious about our future. Sometimes our self-definitions even clash with each other, so we feel a greater sense of inner turmoil as we wrestle with who we are meant to be.

WHO AM I?

It’s a great question to ask.

In this series, we’re going to answer it by considering 6 LIES WE BELIEVE (often sub-consciously, sometimes overtly)

- You are what you do;
- You are what you’ve done;
- You are who you know;
- You are what you know;
- You are what you have (& experience);
- You are what you feel.

By the end, we’ll see that what truly defines us is what God thinks of us, and what it means to be found in Jesus.

It is our prayer that these SERIES COMPANIONS will be a helpful resource for you to record your thoughts and questions as we get DEEP IN THE WORD and SEEK GOD together this term.

(The series was inspired by reading “You Are What You Do” by Daniel Im — You might like to purchase a copy and start reading through. It’s from a North American context, but he has some helpful insights that speak to our current moment too. However, where his book falls short (in our humble view) is in not showing clearly that the answer to all these lies is to be found in Jesus, to be known by him and to find rest in being part of his family.)

YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO

ECCLESIASTES 2v17-23

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

GETTING STARTED

WATCH "The Freedom to Be Yourself at Work", by Virgin at

<https://youtu.be/AMsZdZjP4-c>



1. Do you want to work at Virgin? What's attractive about this workplace?
2. What messages are Virgin sending about work and about us?

WATCH "Men's Depression and Work", by Men's Health Research at

<https://youtu.be/ijFmR7dJYVw>



3. How can having a negative work experience affect men?
4. Do you think it's the same or different for women?
5. What messages do you think underly these feelings about work?

What impact does your work have on how you think about yourself?
Has this changed during different times and stages of your life?

SEEKING GOD

We can have very high expectations of our work. It's more than just an income to us. We look for meaning, social connection, a way to contribute to society, feeling needed and valuable, feeling successful, happy, fulfilled, with status, recognition and more. Working gives us glimpses of satisfying these good desires. But often it also leaves us tired, hopeless and anxious.

This term, we're looking at some lies we believe about who we are. We're going to see how these desires are positive but how they fall short in defining us, from the book of Ecclesiastes. We'll also look to Jesus, who tells us a better story about who we really are.

Ecclesiastes is part of the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. A king, perhaps Solomon, sets himself the task of finding meaning and purpose in God's world. He tries all manner of experiences and writes about them to give wisdom to God's people to live well in this life.

READ ECCLESIASTES 1v1-11

6. How are the sun, the wind and the sea metaphors for life?

READ ECCLESIASTES 2v17-23

7. What is grievous about toil/labour/work?

READ ECCLESIASTES 4v4-6

8. What other problems does the Teacher see?

READ ECCLESIASTES 11v1-6

9. What is uncertain about work?

READ MATTHEW 11v28-30

10. What does Jesus offer to the weary and burdened?

11. What do you think Jesus' rest is?

How does resting in Jesus challenge the lie that 'we are what we do'?
How might this play out in your life?



SEEKING GOD

READ COLOSSIANS 3v22-4v1

12. What is our goal in everyday work?

How does this challenge us when we feel like our work is menial? When we hate our job? When there's conflict at work? When we feel like we're failing? When we're unsure what job to do?



SEEKING GOD

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15v54-58

13. What work is not in vain? Why?

growing disciples

At rockypc we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

What needs to change in your thinking, feeling and actions about work?



SEEKING GOD

Are you giving yourself fully to the work of the Lord? How can gospel work be a priority for you?



MISSION

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he has made us to work in his world. Thank him for all the good things about our work. Confess the ways you've believed the lie that 'we are what we do'. Pray that we'd come to Jesus for rest when we're weary and heavy laden. Praise him that he is gentle and lowly, humble in heart. Ask that we'd know how to rest in him.
- Pray that we'd approach our everyday jobs with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Pray that we'd remember our real master is in heaven.
- Praise God that Jesus' resurrection means that there is work for us to do that is not in vain. Pray that we'd prioritise gospel work — labouring together to grow disciples of Jesus who will be raised imperishable.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU'VE DONE

ECCLESIASTES 8v9-9v3

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

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A Key Verse:

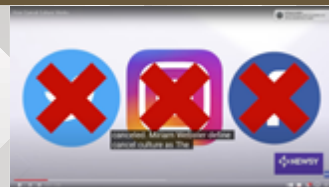
My prayer in response to God's word:

GETTING STARTED

WATCH 'How Cancel Culture Works' by Scripps News at

<https://youtu.be/STHIYh5HIVM>

1. How have you seen cancel culture at work, for good or for ill?



WATCH 'Steve Smith breaks down during ball tampering press conference'

by ABC News at

<https://youtu.be/HQBytgYVn0o>



In our cultural moment, we're quick to call others to account, shaming and cutting off those we consider to be 'toxic'. But Steve Smith shows us the personal consequences of shame and guilt.

How do your past regrets and hurts impact you now? (You may want to just write this down, rather than share out loud)



SEEKING GOD

READ ECCLESIASTES 8v9-14

3. What wrongs does the Teacher see?

READ ECCLESIASTES 9v1-6

4. What problems are there for those who want to do good?

We seem to instinctively know that our actions matter — whether good or evil. But the Teacher raises the problem for us that we all die, no matter how good or evil we've been. And to make matters worse, there doesn't seem to be any justice in this world. We're in God's hands, but how can we be certain what he thinks of us?

And why are we so plagued by our pasts? We're shaped by what we've done and what has been done to us. And we're filled with shame and regret. And at the same time, we quickly turn on each other, in calling out each others' failings. Our culture says 'You are what you've done!' But Jesus speaks a different word into our broken lives.

READ HEBREWS 9v11-14; 10v11-18

5. Is there a way to have a cleansed conscience? How?

READ HEBREWS 9v24-28

6. What confidence can we have in facing God's judgment?

READ EPHESIANS 2v1-10

7. How does Jesus bring us honour in place of our shame?

Do you struggle to believe that you are completely cleansed by Jesus? What do you need to remember in those moments when shame and guilt overwhelm you? What might help you to see yourself as God does?



SEEKING GOD

READ EPHESIANS 4v31-5v2

8. How does God's forgiveness transform us?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.

Is there someone you are struggling to forgive? How does God's character and example empower you to reach out in love to those who do wrong and hurt you?

How can **rockypc** be a COMMUNITY defined by forgiveness instead of canceling, and at the same time, not tolerating sin?



COMMUNITY

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus is our hope and confidence, not our own actions. Pray that we'd take hold of his promises that Jesus' death completely cleanses our consciences. That he no longer remembers our sin because his blood has washed us clean, making us perfect, holy and new. Pray that we'd remember this when our shame and guilt well up in us. Ask his help to see ourselves as he does, gloriously raised in Christ.
- Pray that God's forgiveness would transform the way we see others. Pray we'd walk in love, compassion and kindness. Ask his help to forgive those who have hurt us. Ask for his strength to show them grace instead of cutting them out of our lives. Pray that our **rockypc** COMMUNITY would be defined by forgiveness.

YOU ARE WHO YOU KNOW

ECCLESIASTES 4v8-12

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

WATCH 'Someone to you' by BANNERS at <https://youtu.be/XeLaiL9tk68>

1. How does this song reflect our culture's views on romantic relationship status?



WATCH 'What it's like to feel lonely' by As/Is at <https://youtu.be/BjRRrG8Vr6I>

2. What do you think drives us to crave relationships with others, and feel despair and envy when we don't have them?



WATCH from the start to 2:43 'Yale Law Professor Explains The Rise Of Political Tribalism' by CNBC at <https://youtu.be/7MqFy-1y5JM>

3. We live in a different context from America. Do you think tribalism is evident in Australia? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon?



READ ECCLESIASTES 4v8-12

4. What has the Teacher observed about the benefits of two over one?

5. Do you think he's just talking about marriage here? Why or why not?

Do you feel lonely? What do you feel is lacking in your relationships with others? What impact do these relationships (or lack of relationships) have on you? (You may want to just write this down, rather than share out loud)

SEEKING GOD

Even in individualistic, Western cultures like Australia, we long for deep, satisfying relationships, where we're seen and known and loved. We tell ourselves that we are who we know — with the most friends on the socials, the most likes on our posts and the fullest social calendars. We network and collaborate at work and we revere spouses and families at home. We look for 'our people' wherever we go, to feel like we're connected and we belong. We might even tell ourselves that we're no one if we're not somebody to someone.

This longing for loving relationships is part of our DNA as humans. But it finds its purpose and fulfillment in the one who knows us fully.

READ JOHN 10v11-17

6. How can we be certain that we are loved? What does Jesus' love look like?
7. How does our relationship with Jesus connect us with the relationship of God, who is Father and Son?

READ EPHESIANS 3v14-4v6

8. In John 10, Jesus describes his people as his flock. What is the image here?
9. What unites us?
10. From 4v1-3, how does our connection to Father, Son and Spirit flow into the way we treat one another?

growing disciples

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How does Jesus satisfy our longings for loving relationships? Is this your experience?
If you have grown distant from him, how can you draw near?

SEEKING GOD



Have you experienced connection, belonging and care at **rockypc**? How have you been disappointed?

If your relationships are lacking, what has God's word challenged you to think and to do differently?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for making us for relationships. To belong to one another, to care for each other, to know and be known. Confess when we've defined ourselves by our relationships — despairing and envying when we feel lonely, or being proud when we feel like we have lots of friends or a partner.
- Thank God that Jesus reaches to us with the most beautiful love, by giving up his life for us. Thank him for his love that shepherds, protects and leads us. Thank him for knowing us fully and drawing us into his relationship with his Father. Pray that we'd grasp how wide, long, high and deep his love is.
- Praise God for joining us into his family through faith in Jesus. Pray that we'd live worthy of this calling. Ask that our love for each other would be completely humble, gentle, patient and enduring. Pray that we'd make every effort to be at peace and united in his Spirit. Pray that in our moments of loneliness and disappointment, we'd draw near to Jesus and to one another.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU KNOW

ECCLESIASTES 1v16-18

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

WATCH 'President Obama on the Importance of Education' by Share America at

<https://youtu.be/2hOp408lb5w>

1. Can you think of other advantages to education and seeking knowledge?



WATCH 'HECS hangover leaving young Australians in debt for decades' by 7 News at

https://youtu.be/dhllS_9E7eM

2. Student debt is a big drawback of higher education. Are there other problems that you have noticed in our society?



WATCH 'Imposter Syndrome' by Viva La Dirt League. *Don't search on Youtube. Follow this link to a censored version:* https://youtu.be/OrSQWIG8L_Y



Can you relate to feeling like a fraud, as though everyone else knows more and is smarter than you?

How does this affect you? (You may want to just write this down, rather than share out loud)

SEEKING GOD

READ ECCLESIASTES 1v16-18

3. What does the Teacher's experience of gaining wisdom and knowledge show him?

4. What do you think he means by this?

READ ECCLESIASTES 2v12-21

5. What advantages are there to being wise?

6. What problems does he see?

The Bible is really positive about learning and knowledge. We live in a society that highly values education as well. But the Teacher sees some problems with thinking that education is the silver bullet to all our problems, and our experience shows this is true. Defining ourselves by what we know can lead to an endless pursuit of knowledge and pride in our superior training/information retention/thinking skills. On the flip side, we can feel humiliated by our ignorance, dislike of reading and lack of letters after our name.

What do we really need to learn and know? And what should we do with that knowledge?

READ ROMANS 1v18-25

7. What is the ultimate foolishness?

READ COLOSSIANS 1v27-2v3

8. What does it mean for 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' to be hidden in Christ?

9. What is the end goal of Paul's strenuous effort in proclaiming, admonishing and teaching with wisdom?

READ JAMES 3v13-18

10. How does James contrast earthly and heavenly wisdom?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are **DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY** together.

What place does learning and knowledge have in your life?

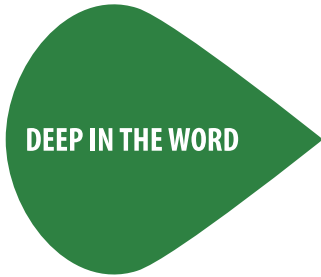
How might this need to change in order to acknowledge your Creator? Or to treasure the wisdom and knowledge of knowing Jesus?

SEEKING GOD



Do you think your life shows humility that comes from wisdom? Are you tempted to boast in pride, or envy in bitterness or despair when it comes to what you do and don't know?

How can **rockypc** be a COMMUNITY that loves learning and education in a humble, considerate, merciful and sincere way?



How can **rockypc** value learning the full riches of Jesus so that we may be encouraged in heart and united in love, growing to maturity together?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for his eternal power and divine nature, the glorious immortal Creator. Confess when we've failed to acknowledge and thank him. Pray that all of our learning would be through the lens of our Creator.
- Praise God that the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. Thank him that we can know these full riches as we know him better. Pray that we would do this together — being encouraged in heart and united in love, so that we might grow to maturity together.
- Confess when we've defined ourselves by what we do or don't know. Ask forgiveness for boasting in pride about how smart we are, how much we know and how well-educated we are. Ask forgiveness for envying in bitterness or despair when we feel ignorant and like a fraud. Pray that we would live in the wisdom that comes from heaven — using what we know to be humble, considerate, merciful and sincere towards one another.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU HAVE

ECCLESIASTES 5v10-6v2

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

WATCH 'What it's like having FOMO' by As/Is at

<https://youtu.be/CczZMmYB2FU>

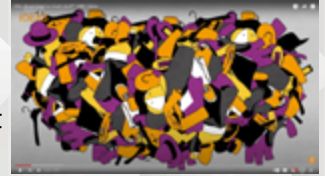
1. Can you relate to FOMO? What do you fear missing out on? What do you worry will happen if you miss it or never experience it?



WATCH 'Why do we have so much stuff?' by BBC Ideas at

<https://youtu.be/KtWlmbDsx-U>

2. What does your credit card/bank statement say about you? You could take a moment to look at it now!



3. Which purchases promised to make you happy? Did they succeed?

If you were given \$2000 to use on yourself, are you more likely to use it on stuff or experiences? What makes this valuable to you?

SEEKING GOD

READ ECCLESIASTES 2v1-11

4. What is the result of the Teacher's experiment with pleasure and experiences?

READ ECCLESIASTES 5v10-6v2

5. What problems does the Teacher see with wealth and possessions?

In our consumerist, pleasure-worshiping culture, it is easy to believe 'you are what you have' — both possessions and experiences. We have an insatiable appetite for more, but we're always disappointed. We're fearful and anxious about losing them or missing out on them. We compare ourselves with one another — feeling good with what we have and envying what we don't. What we buy and what we do are status symbols to post about, to display proudly and to look after jealously.

How can we step off this merry-go-round of wanting more to feel good about ourselves?

READ 1 PETER 1v3-9

6. What is our most precious possession? What is our most joyful experience?

READ PHILIPPIANS 3v7-14

7. How should we think about everything that is a status symbol in our world?

8. What should we pursue (instead of experiences and possessions)?

9. How might this lead to contentment? (see also Philippians 4v11-13)

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6v17-19

10. How does our view of wealth change as we hope in God?

11. What actions will this changed mindset lead to?

growing disciples

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Do you really believe that if you know Jesus, then you have it all? What has struck home about this truth? What do you need to confess to him?



SEEKING GOD

Do you struggle with contentment or anxiety over what you have? What steps will you take to grow in this?



SEEKING GOD

How can you grow in good deeds, generosity and willingness to share? How does your hope in God motivate you?



COMMUNITY

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for his many good gifts to us — in experiences that give us joy, in possessions that fill our needs. Pray for his wisdom to think rightly about them. Confess when we've defined ourselves by what we have, as we hungrily want more stuff or experiences. Talk with him about your fears, anxieties and envy.
- Pray that we'd be captivated by all that we have in Jesus — a new birth into a living hope, a rich inheritance kept in heaven for us, an inexpressible and glorious joy in the salvation of our souls. Pray that knowing Jesus would be so wonderful to us that we would wholeheartedly pursue him. Ask that we'd know the power of his resurrection, participating in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death and somehow attaining the resurrection of the dead. Pray that we'd press on to this, considering all worldly status symbols as garbage.
- Pray that God would grow our contentment in what he has kindly given us. That in our thankfulness we'd not envy others or hoard what we have. Pray that we'd be rich towards God, laying up treasure in heaven. Ask that our hearts would overflow with generosity towards one another and that we'd willingly share what we have with others.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU FEEL

PROVERBS 3v1-8

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A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

WATCH 'How I lost my identity but found my worth by Jeanie Woller at TEDxUSU at <https://youtu.be/vHWsdNAgn64>

1. What do you think are the strengths and pitfalls of only seeking validation by looking inwards?



WATCH 'The Greatest Showman' Star Keala Takes the Stage by TheEllenShow at <https://youtu.be/aydY1eiGjgs>

2. 'I'm marching on to the beat I drum ... This is who I'm meant to be'. Our culture tells us that we must be who we feel we are. What other catchphrases sum up this worldview (known as expressive individualism)? (ie sayings, common wisdom, popular songs etc)



Think of the ways these catchphrases describe your view of yourself and how you treat others. Write them down and discuss them together. Is it the same for everyone in your group?

SEEKING GOD

Ecclesiastes doesn't directly address the lie that 'You are how you feel'. But Solomon does talk about validating ourselves in other wisdom writings.

READ PROVERBS 3v1-8

3. Is it wise to look inwards to validate yourself? What are the better options?

The prophet Jeremiah and Jesus also see issues with looking inwards and following our feelings.

READ JEREMIAH 17v9; MARK 7v20-23; LUKE 16v14-15

4. What are the problems with our inner selves and expressing what's inside?

READ JOHN 3v16-21

5. What is God's verdict on those whose hearts are dark?

6. How can this verdict be changed? Is it from within? Or somewhere else?

READ ROMANS 8v14-17; 31-39

7. How are we validated now?

READ TITUS 2v11-14

8. How does God transform our inner selves? How do we express it now?

READ GALATIANS 6v1-5

9. What place can looking inward have for God's children?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are **DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY** together.

How can you express thanks to God that through the redemption of Jesus, we are no longer condemned, but beloved children?

Do you have times of doubting that God's opinion of your heart is true and matters more than self-validation? What do you need to remember when your feelings don't match what God says?



SEEKING GOD

We no longer say 'You do you', but 'You do the *new* you'. How has Jesus transformed you so you're eager to do what is good?

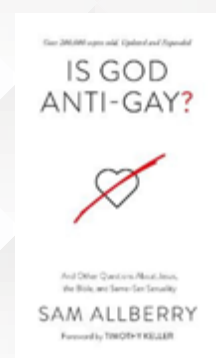
Spend a few minutes doing a self-assessment — not so you can live to authentically express your feelings, but thinking about God's grace needs to teach you to love others honestly, gently and humbly.


COMMUNITY

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he sees the darkness of our hearts and is moved to grace and mercy. Praise him for not condemning us, but instead, through Jesus, adopting us as his children in unrelenting love. Thank him for his grace to transform us so that we turn away from worldly passions to godliness, eager to do what is good.
- Confess when you've failed to listen God's assessment of your heart and to others' godly wisdom. Talk to him about the ways you believe the lie that you are what you feel.
- Ask God's help when our feelings don't line up with what he says. Pray that we would see ourselves as God does and trust that in his goodness, he speaks the truth about us. Pray that his Spirit would continue to work in our hearts so that we'd live out our new selves, redeemed by Christ.
- Pray that we'd look at our inner selves with sober judgment so that we can see how to love others honestly, gently and humbly.

Our cultural narrative says that our feelings are our true self, and we must live in line with our feelings to be authentic and free. One prominent place we see this is in the area of gender and sexuality. The message is 'if you feel like a woman, then you truly are a woman'. Or 'if you feel attracted to others of the same sex, then that's who you truly are'. This is a large and important topic that is important for Christians to humbly and carefully think through. We also need to spend lots of time listening before speaking or getting angry (James 1v19). But we don't want to focus on these couple of issues at the expense of seeing the bigger picture. If you want to explore them further, then take a look at these excellent resources or have a chat with Andrew or Matt.





YOU ARE ...

MARK 5v24-34; MARK 14v3-9

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Something I Never Knew:

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

WATCH 'Who Am I?' by Kode at

<https://youtu.be/7slCxFlCu78>



What makes 'Who am I?' such an important and vexing question for us?

Is this a question you've wrestled with at some points in your life? If you're comfortable, share your experience of asking and answering it.

SEEKING GOD

WATCH 'Find Yourself' by Destination British Columbia at

https://youtu.be/E_IdKOdRoCM



1. How does this advertisement suggest we should find ourselves?
2. What are other ways our culture/psychology tells us to discover who we are?

We've been looking at Solomon's wisdom in the book of Ecclesiastes to see how he has explored who we are and what life is all about. And then we've looked to Jesus who answers our longings and tells us the truth about ourselves in the midst of the world's lies. We're going to end this series by seeing who we are in Christ.

READ MARK 5v24-34

3. What defined this woman before meeting Jesus? (think about her social status etc)
4. How did meeting Jesus change who she was?

READ MARK 14v3-9

5. How did meeting Jesus change who this woman was?

Meeting Jesus transformed these women. But how? Jesus has some words for those who are on a quest.

READ MATTHEW 10v38-39

6. What is the paradox of wanting to find yourself/your life?

READ GALATIANS 2v20

7. How is our reality tied to Jesus?

READ GALATIANS 3v26-4v9

8. How does having faith in Jesus answer the question 'Who am I?'

READ ROMANS 6v1-14; 2 CORINTHIANS 1v3-7; 2 CORINTHIANS 5v14-6v2; EPHESIANS 2v11-22; 2 TIMOTHY 2v8-13; 1 PETER 5v1-4

You could divide the passages up between your group as individuals or pairs and then they can report back

9. In a just few words for each passage, explain the circumstances in which dying and being raised with Christ give us help now (and hope for the future)?

These are just a small sample of New Testament passages that talk about what it means to be 'in Christ', joined with him, experiencing the transformation of his death and resurrection. Jesus didn't just die and rise on our behalf, we died and rose with him when we became believers. And now it's our 'signature move'. It's how we make ethical decisions, how we're comforted, how we endure, it's how we're joined to each other and much more. Jesus' death and resurrection now defines **who we are**.

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are **DEEP IN THE WORD**, **SEEKING GOD**, on **MISSION**, as we **SERVE** in **COMMUNITY** together.

How have you been helped to know who you are, through what we've read today?

What questions do you still have? How will you go about answering them?



SEEKING GOD

Does being a disciple of Jesus mean that our unique qualities disappear?

How can we integrate all the different parts of ourselves to have certainty about who are?



SEEKING GOD

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that we are transformed by knowing Jesus. Pray that we'd lose ourselves to find them by taking up our cross and following Jesus. Praise him that we are God's children, through his Spirit.
- Thank God that we are joined to Jesus in his death and resurrection. Pray that dying and rising with him would permeate every part of who we are. Ask for his help to understand who we are in Christ. And that our sense of self would be defined by him, even as we remain unique people.
- Ask that we would know life, comfort, hope, leadership, **MISSION** to our world, perseverance in persecution, progress in crucifying our sin and **COMMUNITY** with God's people as we understand and delight in the cross and the empty tomb.