

Sidetracked: Identity
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

An unavoidable part of following God is sometimes getting sidetracked

We can become lost and confused on our faith journey.

*When has this happened to you? Even with the best of intentions, have you been sidetracked spiritually or gotten sidetracked by following someone?

The most common approaches to spirituality don't always work

Read and discuss Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

*What does this passage say about the paths we embrace?

*What paths feel normal and natural to us, but don't really lead to the Kingdom Life?

*What are some of the reasons we get spiritually confused?

All of us at times get sidetracked about our identity in Christ

Read and discuss Luke 3: 21-22 (NIV)

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Read and discuss Romans 8:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*What do all of these verses show us about our identity?

*What broad path do we often believe about our identity and how does this sidetrack us? Why does this make sense to us in our humanness?

The narrow and rarely traveled path of our identity is believing what God says about us

This is at the core of the Gospel and finding the Kingdom life.

*How have you taken the broad path of effort, achievement, and shame at times?

*How do we remind ourselves to stay on the narrow path of grace? How can we help each other not to get sidetracked?

*What are you sensing from the Holy Spirit about the path you are on in understanding your identity in Christ?