



FOUNDRY GROUP GUIDE

Week of October 31, 2021

Identity: Session 4

“What does it mean to be a human being at this point in the world's history?”

[Missed Community Night? Click here to watch last week's Message.](#)

OPEN WITH PRAYER

God who is with us, you have set us apart in your grace, united us in your power, and summoned us into your Kingdom. Through your living Word, remind us of our identity in light of your own identity. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our bonds to each other and to your infinite love, so that we may continue to grow into who you have called us to be. We offer this and all of our prayers through your Son, Jesus, who came to be with us to prove that you are forever for us. Amen.

INTRODUCE YOURSELVES & CATCH UP

Anybody here for the first time? Do introductions so everybody is familiar.

Catch up on prayer requests from your last gathering or quickly check in with everyone to see what has happened since you last met.

SCRIPTURE

Esther 4:1-14

DISCUSSION

Check in on the commission from your last gathering: last week's commission was to begin to pay attention to *how* you thought about church as community. Did you catch yourself thinking about church as a task to be completed for the week? Did you notice yourself thinking about church as a community you continually live alongside? How did you remind yourself of Adam's message: that we were designed to live alongside each other and not have faith alone?

DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Think about some of the areas in your life (your job, your friends, your family, your neighborhood, etc.) and share an example of where you feel different because you are a Christian?

Becca shared that Esther had to offer empathy in order to truly help the Jewish people. Share an experience you had with sharing or receiving empathy. How would things have been different if you had given or received sympathy instead? (As a reminder...Sympathy means you observe from the outside looking in. Empathy involves getting on the inside, alongside the other person.)

Esther showed courage in risking her own status (and life) in order to save others. Courage, as Becca reminded us, is one of the most important of all Christian virtues. Talk about a time you did something courageous.

Here's your commission: Find a way to be courageous between now and your next gathering. Write a couple of sentences on your phone about that experience to share with everybody for next time.

CHECK IN

Take some time to let people share what's going on in their lives (talk about the good/bad, celebrations/concerns, God sightings & prayer concerns).

The group facilitator should make note of any prayer concerns that are shared and send them out to the group after the meeting for group members to pray over throughout the week.

WRAP UP

Mark Your Calendars

- Discuss the next day & time your Foundry Group will meet
- Next Foundry gatherings:
 - **Community Night #5** (the last community night of the fall) - November 9 at 6:30pm at Alamo Heights UMC
- Save the date:
 - **Gastrochurch** - Tuesday, November 16, at Alamo Heights UMC (watch for more information on The Foundry's social media handles & email!)
 - **Friendsgiving service event** - Saturday, November 20, at Northern Hills UMC Ministry Center & L.C. Rutledge Apartments (more info to come!)

Close with prayer!