

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Let the Future Begin (pt. 4)” - 09.13.15

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

**Bottom Line:** Identity determines direction.

## INTRODUCTION/BREAKING THE ICE:

The holidays are just around the corner! “Break the ice” by having each person in your group share their favorite holiday. What are some of their favorite memories from that holiday? Why is it their favorite?

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL

### **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17**

The result of being united to Christ is that you are made totally new. In Christ, you are not what has happened to you in your past. You may have been divorced, but, “divorced,” is not your identity. In Christ, you are made whole, complete, and clean.

1) ***Do you define your present identity by your past actions? Why is this dangerous?***

2) ***How does defining identity by past actions lead to a cul-de-sac?***

**Answer:** My past (even at it's best) is NEVER GOOD ENOUGH; when life is defined by the past, we will live in reference to it. It will always demand PRETENDING & PERFORMING.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

1) ***How does Jesus make us a, “new creation”?***

**Answer:** The Great Exchange at the cross makes us a new creation! All of Jesus' perfection is given to us and in exchange He receives all of our sin and failures.

2) ***Why is accepting our, “new creation,” status so important for our future?***

**Answer:** Who you are determines where you go. So will you be defined by your past keep and circling there? In Jesus, we are free from our past and encouraged to lead others to the same freedom.

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE

1) ***Are you in Christ? Is Jesus the defining center of your life, not just an add-on insurance?***

2) ***Encourage your Small Group to Fill In The Blank...***

“I may have been \_\_\_\_\_, but now, in Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ is not who I am.”  
(ex. divorced, angry, successful, athletic, beautiful, smart, abused)

3) ***Pray that God would help you to embrace that you and others in Christ are, “new creations”!***