

rightnow MEDIA



FINDING TRUTH

FRANCIS CHAN

LEADER'S GUIDE

rightnow MEDIA

RightNow Presents *Finding Truth*
LEADER'S GUIDE

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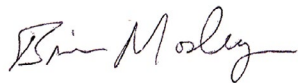
Truth is a concept that seems to be losing its meaning. These days we're encouraged to find our own truth or simply that there is no such thing as truth.

RightNow Media has been producing Bible studies for students for over thirty years. We are passionate about equipping the next generation with biblical teaching that can help them navigate the challenges of teenage life.

When we decided to tackle this topic of "truth," we knew that Francis Chan would be a homerun.

I love Francis' teaching whatever the topic. And, in this series, he does an outstanding job of reminding us why the ultimate truth is still important and how we can find it.

I pray that this resource helps your students live rooted in the truth of the Bible.



Brian Mosley
President, RightNow Media



HOW TO USE THIS LEADER'S GUIDE

This Leader's Guide is a tool to help you combine the video and Bible Study into a dynamic experience. As the leader, take some time in advance to consider the Bible Study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

There are handouts to use with each lesson. You'll need to make enough copies for your entire class beforehand so your group can make notes along the way and remember the Scripture used in the Bible study. The handouts also include activities for further study during the week.

With that in mind, let's preview the guide. The main body of the Leader's Guide is written as a conversation you would have with your group. **When there's a specific question to ask, it appears in bold type.** When we want to whisper directions in your ear, we'll use italic type. (If you're looking for a quick answer, the suggested answer sometimes appears in parentheses after the question.) But many of the questions are open for discussion, so they have no (suggested) answers in parentheses. Instead, the paragraphs that follow after might include thoughts you could add to the discussion.

Each lesson has particular sections...

► OPEN

This is an icebreaker. Adjust it to the character of your group, but don't skip it, for several reasons. (1) Every group needs some transition time. (2) The people get to know each other. (3) The introductory questions draw out practical connections between the subject matter and their lives.

► VIEW

Now it's time to watch the video. Make sure to set the audio at a comfortable level before beginning the session and everyone can see the screen. You don't want your group to miss anything.

► REVIEW

People can forget what they see unless they review it right away. The discussion questions in this section help your group remember what they just viewed from the teaching and real-life stories. But other questions try to connect the video to their emotions or experience. How did you feel when he said that? Is that true in your life? Do you have the same issue?

FINDING TRUTH

You, as the leader, will set the tone. If you offer a comment that's authentic, vulnerable, or a bit challenging, then others will feel that they have permission to do the same—and you will have meaningful discussion and growth.

► BIBLE JOURNEY

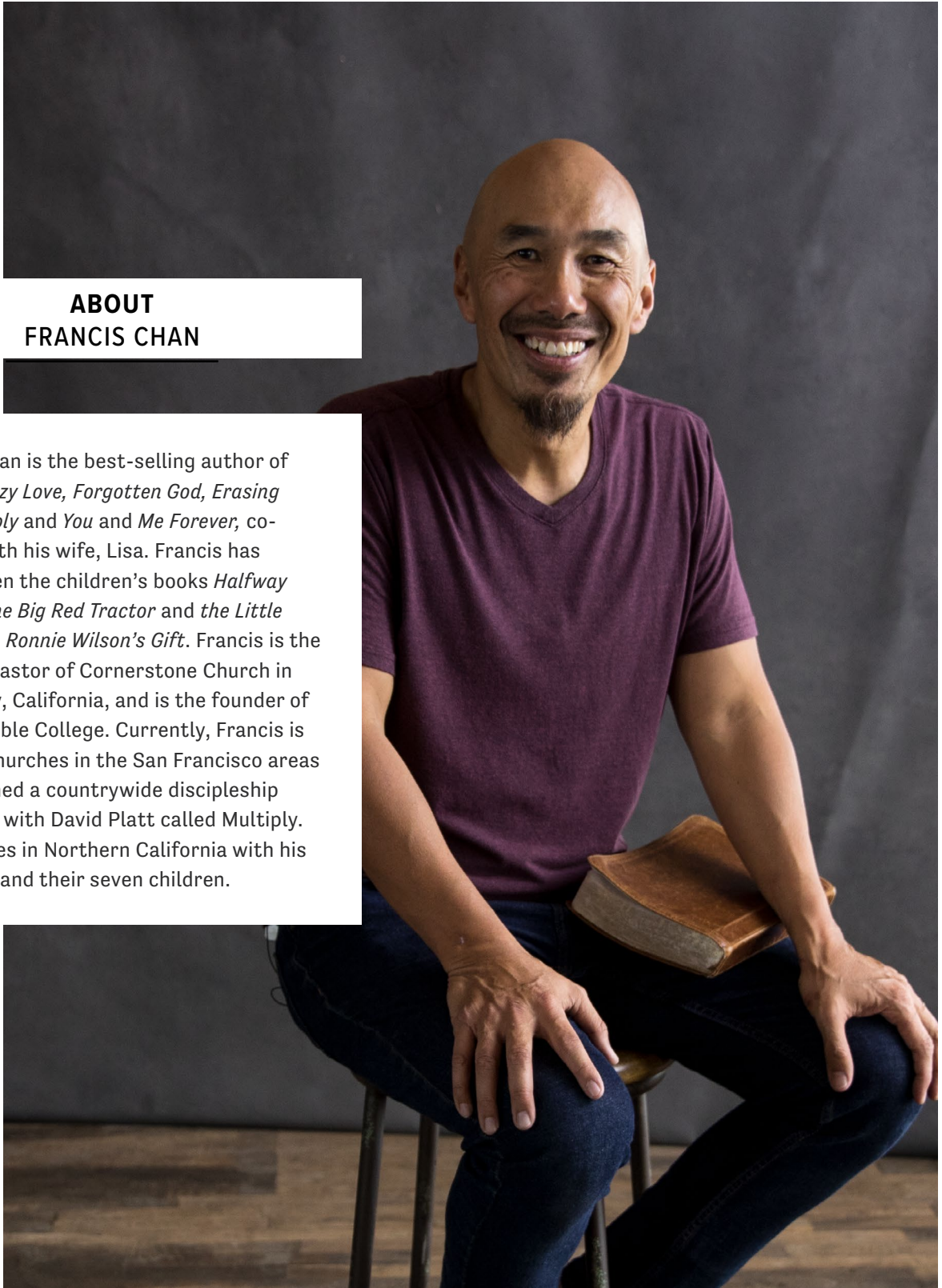
This is an in-depth Bible study based on the biblical teaching mentioned in the video. Within your youth group, you will find different levels of faith. This is a time to open up the Bible and help them grow, or find their faith.

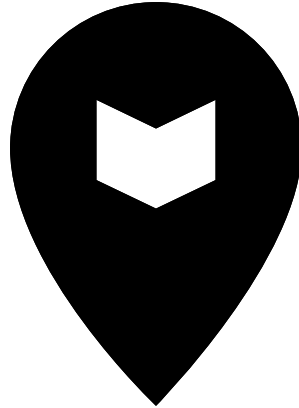
► LAST WORD

This is an opportunity for your students to be challenged to do something with what they've learned. This section will direct the group to reflect on how they live out their faith in their daily lives.

ABOUT FRANCIS CHAN

Francis Chan is the best-selling author of books, *Crazy Love*, *Forgotten God*, *Erasing Hell*, *Multiply* and *You and Me Forever*, co-written with his wife, Lisa. Francis has also written the children's books *Halfway Herbert*, *The Big Red Tractor* and *the Little Village* and *Ronnie Wilson's Gift*. Francis is the founding pastor of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, California, and is the founder of Eternity Bible College. Currently, Francis is planting churches in the San Francisco areas and launched a countrywide discipleship movement with David Platt called Multiply. Francis lives in Northern California with his wife, Lisa, and their seven children.





FINDING TRUTH

FRANCIS CHAN

SESSION 1:

WHO HAS THE ANSWERS?

QUICK START

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

PRINT

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

► ICE BREAKER

For this activity, clear enough space for the students to wander around the room wearing a blindfold. The goal is to blindfold one student at a time in the middle of the room. You will prompt them to find a certain object in the room, while the rest of the group (everyone) shouts directions for them to get there. The blindfolded student will more than likely struggle finding the desired item while listening to multiple voices directing them.

The participant must stand blindfolded and try to find the object with only the help of the rest of the youth group.

Leader: Today, we're going to count on each other's ability to give proper directions. Does anyone think they can find the missing backpack, while being blindfolded?

Choose a volunteer. Place the blindfold on and spin them around.

Leader: Ready? Go!

The student will most likely fumble around the room as they listen to the multiple voices give multiple directions in order to find the backpack. Once the activity has reached a good stopping point (they find the backpack, or too much time has passed) take the blindfold off and instruct everyone to go back to their seats.

How difficult was your task while wearing the blindfold?

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How confident were you while getting directions from multiple voices?

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Leader: This time, we want you to find the backpack again blindfolded, but I will be the only one giving directions for you. (Place blindfold back on the student and spin them around)

This time direct the student toward the backpack by yourself (no other students). Make the directions good enough for him or her to actually find the backpack.

How much easier was it this time around? Did one voice help you in the long run, rather than listening to all the others?

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Leader: We're going to begin a Bible study called Finding Truth. In a world full of opinions and various definitions of truth, it can be hard to know where to find the real truth. We all have the tendency to do whatever makes us feel good and make our own decisions—but if we look to the Bible, we will see that Jesus has a way for us to live that not only enhances our lives but enhances those around us as well.

The Bible is the source of truth. And Jesus is the one who can help us walk in it.

► VIEW

SHOW SESSION 1

► REVIEW

In the story at the beginning of the session, Maddie tried to tell her friends about the Bible but would inevitably get cut off. **How do you handle conversations with friends who don't believe the Bible?**

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A few of the kids in Maddie’s friend group weren’t Christian and constantly asked her difficult questions. **How have you handled being in this situation?**

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How did Maddie’s friends influence her to doubt the truth of Scripture? What ideas or concepts have caused you to doubt the truth of scripture?

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In the video, Francis talked about learning to trust the Bible more than our own feelings, the popular opinion of a celebrity, or even the smartest person you know. **Is it tempting for you to trust other people, instead of the truth in the Bible? Why or why not?**

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Maddie allowed the doubt of her friends to confuse her enough to stop reading the Bible. **Why is it so difficult to have different viewpoints from your friends?**

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How did Maddie handle the doubt that started to surface? (She stopped reading the Bible and felt guilty.)

How did Maddie take responsibility for her confusion and doubt that formed about scripture? (She sought after her youth pastor.)

Once Maddie’s youth pastor walked her through Scripture to show its consistency, she admitted that it didn’t completely erase her doubt but gave her the faith she needed to trust the Bible. **Which areas of the Bible do you believe but don’t understand? Who can you go to, to help you understand Scripture?**

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Francis explained in the video that God is our anchor when we’ve been lied to by the world over and over again. When we become frustrated—not knowing who to believe—we can run to our Bible and find peace in what it says. **What is the point of an anchor? How can God being your anchor be a benefit when you’re confused about what to believe?**

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In the second story, Rickey was influenced by his teacher to stray from his faith because he didn’t have a firm foundation to begin with. **If you have ever let others influence you to stray from God, what was the reason?**

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What were the subtle changes that took place in Rickey’s life after he began doubting Scripture?

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As Rickey stated, he was “already over the edge” by the time he realized how far he’d gone. **Can you describe a time where you found yourself in this kind of situation?**

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How did his doubt cause a rift in Rickey’s spiritual identity? (He stopped calling himself a Christian.)

Rickey thought that he had all the answers and could find the truth in his own intellect. **How can that way of thinking be a dangerous mindset to have?**

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Francis brought up an important point about our understanding of God. He shared that, contrary to what we believe, God has determined the aspects of our lives and can use difficult situations for his glory. **What was the experience that brought Rickey back to Christ?**

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Have you ever begged God to get you out of a situation like Rickey’s? What was the situation?

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Rickey made the difficult decision to stop hanging out with his friends in order to avoid the risk of falling back into his old lifestyle. **How would you handle the aftermath of a similar situation?**

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► BIBLE JOURNEY

It’s tough living in a world that values the way we’re perceived over everything else. Truth becomes relative to your own experience. “Whatever is right in your own eyes” is the motto that most live by. **The world leads us to believe that the truth is whatever you want it to be, but what about the truth of the Bible?**

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We have to remember that the word of God is the only firm foundation we have. We saw how a weak foundation affected Maddie and Ricky. When we set our feet on the solid ground of God’s Word, we won’t be able to sway from the different opinions thrown at us daily.

How do you define truth? Why is having the truth so important?

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Does it ever confuse you knowing that there are so many different opinions about how to live life?

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How does it make you feel when others judge your opinions on how to live? What are some differing opinions in our culture that are in conflict with each other?

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READ ISAIAH 55:8-9.

It's easy to believe we have all the answers. We don't have to rely on books anymore to get our information because, with the rise of the internet, Google gives us any answer we need in a matter of seconds. But in the passage, it says that God's thoughts are not like our own and neither are his ways. This should make us feel a sense of relief knowing that there is no pressure having to know everything. We can relax and trust in the word of God.

What's comforting to you knowing God's thoughts are much bigger than yours?

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What can this verse teach us about our relationship with God and how we rely on him? (We have to trust him when we don't understand, because we know he understands.)

What in our world could we point to that shows God's thoughts are far beyond our own? (The galaxy, the function of our bodies, the weather, etc.)

Things in this life are hard to understand—death, poverty, or even relationships are understood by God even when we can't figure it out. The amount of sin and chaos in the world is what leads others to doubt the truth of Scripture. When we try to rationalize all of the evil in this world without the renewed mind of Christ, we could find ourselves deep in a well of doubt.

Are there any portions of Scripture (certain passages and stories) that you've doubted? Why have you doubted them?

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What makes believing the Bible hard for people?

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At the end of the day, we all have the tendency to believe what we can see. It's much easier to live a life based on what we can touch, feel, and see—it's comfortable and doesn't bring any fear. But God says that he didn't give us a spirit of fear, and he created us to be strong and to reflect him.

Francis talked about how God loved us even while we were at our worst and still sent Jesus to the cross. Christ's death and resurrection are the reasons we are free from sin, walking with a purpose, and filled with the Spirit. No matter what kind of difficulties we go through, we know that God has a plan for our lives. How might that help you understand your true identity?

How does Jesus' death on the cross define who we are?

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What might it look like for you to stand firm in your identity when friends or classmates judge you?

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It might feel safe to believe the opinions of your favorite celebrity (especially when they sound good), but more often than not, people's opinions change when culture, laws, and trends change. At any given moment, people can switch it up and call something true that they once believed was a lie. But the thing about God's word is that it never changes. It remains truthful and good for the soul no matter the time.

READ ROMANS 12:1-3.

Romans 12:2 tells us that we shouldn't conform to the pattern of the world, but we should be transformed by the renewing of our minds. If we want to stand on the truth of God's Word in confidence, we have to be active in renewing our minds.

What does it mean to renew your mind? What are some practical ways you can renew your mind daily? (Read your Bible, memorize Scripture, put sticky notes on your mirror, etc.)

If we aren't being transformed by the renewing of our minds, what are we conformed to? Why is this a slippery slope for the believer?

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What do you think being conformed to the world means?

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Why does Paul want everyone to remain humble and not think too highly of themselves?

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Paul says in verse 3 that God has given each of us a certain measure of faith. **Do you feel like you lack faith at times? How could this Scripture help you in those moments?**

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What is the difference between the way Paul describes our view of self and the way the world views self-esteem?

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It's easy to complain about the Bible and how confusing it can be. But how often are you spending time in the Word, learning what God has said? There are plenty of things that can distract us from reading our Bible, whether it's our schedule, peer pressure, or just relying on our own feelings.

What steps can you take this week to read the Bible more consistently? How will you begin to lean into your identity in Christ?

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When we focus on renewing our minds, our old way of thinking goes away and we begin to discern life through the Spirit of God. How can this help you in your daily walk through life? How can this change the dynamic of your relationships?

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Paul explains that we all are on the same mission, but we all serve a different function. All of us have a certain gift given by God that is unique to the function of the church. **What tempts you to compare yourself with others? How can you encourage a friend this week who may be comparing themselves to other people?**

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In a world where everyone claims to know the truth, we must remember that the Bible is not just a book, but our guide. There are plenty of directions to walk in, but only the truth of Scripture will guide us in the right one.

▶ LAST WORD

We're going to take a minute to reflect on what we've discovered about God's Word today. Take out a pen and journal on the back of your handout after you read the following questions.

In what areas have you been living on your own terms? How can you begin to trust God's Word in that area of your life this week?

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Did you learn anything from today's Scriptures that helped you understand the importance of trusting God's Word?

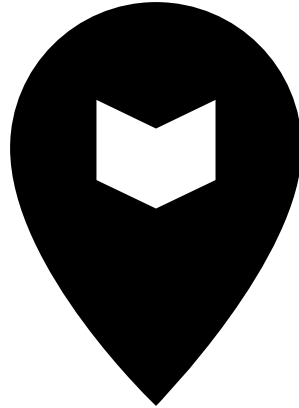
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How can you begin to walk in the identity that Christ gave you?

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Leader: Have the students take a few moments to reflect on the days lesson and pray or journal.

Let's pray.



FINDING TRUTH

FRANCIS CHAN

SESSION 2:

FINDING IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

QUICK START

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

PRINT

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

► ICEBREAKER

Begin by handing each student a name tag and pen. Make sure they do not write their actual name on the tag and hold it until further instruction.

Leader: Today we're going to continue our study on Finding Truth. Part of knowing the truth is understanding our identity and how God sees us. I want you to think about some of the negative ways you view yourself. Write down the word on your name tag (for example: Ugly, fearful, disappointment, dumb, etc.), and place it inside the basket on the floor. Once everyone discards their name tag, pass the basket around and draw out a new tag to put on your shirt.

After everyone is finished, ask if there are any volunteers to explain why they wrote their specific word. Ask them how they feel wearing the name tag. Would they feel comfortable introducing themselves by the word? Would they want to walk into a new small group with new people and people see this word? Do they feel differently about the word, now that it is on their shirt for everyone to see?

Leader: These words may be how we're tempted to define ourselves or even how others define us. But these words are not who we are. According to the Bible, you are a child of God, you are loved, you are made for good works and a new creature. If we have been saved by Christ, then we must renew our minds daily and remember who we are in him and not what our past mistakes say we are.

Have prepared a new set of name tags for each student, that you've already written on. These tags should have words strictly related to our identity in Christ. For example: Beloved, forgiven, never alone, set apart, adopted in Gods family, chosen, etc. Pass these new name tags out and have the student put them on.

Leader: These new names I've given you are rooted in your identity in Christ. The identity you have in Christ never changes and is what truly matters in this life.

Now, as we go around the room, everyone introduce yourself to the group by the word on your new name tag!

Pray.

► VIEW

SHOW SESSION 2

► REVIEW

In the first story, Luke found himself becoming prideful due to his talent in football. He eventually put his identity in the sport and it didn't end well. **In what ways do you relate to Luke's story of false identity?**

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What areas of life have you struggled to keep disconnected from your identity?

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Why do you think it's so easy to get our identity wrapped up in our roles?

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When Luke's father left his family it took an emotional toll on him. **How did Luke deal with his anger? How do you typically deal with your emotional turmoil?**

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Luke eventually used football as an outlet to handle his hurt, but it wasn't healing the root issue. **In what ways have you used a certain outlet to handle your emotions?**

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When did Luke realize his sinful attitude?

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How was God able to draw Luke back to him? How was he able to get Luke's attention? (Luke became bored at home with plenty of time on his hands.)

After allowing boredom to give room to negative thoughts, Luke began reading the Bible and praying about his situation. **What major changes came after Luke began reading his Bible?**

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What does Luke's story teach us about identity?

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Francis pointed out that our lives can change in an instant—even when we have no control over what happens. Our identity gets shaken up by things we can't control like rumors and lies. But as we've heard, our identity isn't found in what our classmates say about us or what our team mates think, but instead it's found in what Jesus has done.

After losing his scholarships and reputation as the best athlete around, Luke had to deal with what his new purpose in life would be. **How would you feel if everyone in school changed their ideas about you for the worse?**

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In the video, Francis summarized the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 4 by saying Paul couldn't care less that people judged him. He didn't even care how well he judged himself, because he knew that God was the ultimate judge who saw everything and would rightly judge everyone. The truth will all come out in the end.

How could Paul's perspective on caring about the opinions of others help you in your current life?

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Rachel went through a rough season when her dad had a heart attack and began to doubt God. **Has there ever been a time where you doubted God? Why do you think we doubt God in the midst of hard circumstances?**

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Based on Rachel's experience, how can doubting God cause problems in our decision making?

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How can you be sure to give God your love and loyalty not only when things are going well, but when things are tough?

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Many people deal with trauma and hurt in different ways. Rachel dealt with her emotional trauma by drinking, partying, and living selfishly. Why do you think dealing with pain is so hard? In what ways have you struggled with a painful situation?

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Why is indulging yourself during a trial a dangerous option?

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Rachel learned that God still loved her and was forgiving even after causing a car wreck and almost losing her life. What does this say about the relationship between our sins and God?

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We've all desired to get out of a horrible situation, even hoping that God will come to the rescue. But as Francis pointed out, many of us stop with finding God after bad things happen instead of remaining with him afterward. The Lord doesn't want to be a magic genie. He wants to be in a life-long relationship with you.

Both Luke and Rachel's stories show us how drastically our lives can change when we truly accept Christ and begin to live by his Word. Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." As we continue in our study of finding truth, we should keep in mind that Scripture challenges us to trust the Lord and know that it is the best decision for our life.

► BIBLE JOURNEY

Most of us would agree that there are certain steps to take in order to be accepted by others: indulge in certain activities, attend certain parties, or behave a certain way. Our identity is usually wrapped up in what others say about us and the desire to be loved. People, no matter the age, struggle with wanting to be accepted.

Desiring acceptance isn't all bad. But when we elevate acceptance of others over God's acceptance of us, we've made it into an idol.

How would you describe yourself? What do you typically think of when you think about your identity?

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Why is it tempting to want acceptance from other people? What does being accepted feel like for you?

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As Francis stated in the video, our lives can take a turn for the worse in a matter of seconds. If we put our identity in the roles we have, the people we know, or in the opinion's others have about us, then we will never be able to stand on a firm foundation. But that's the territory that comes with the world. If we're going to think about our life and purpose in a Christ-like way, we must renew our minds and accept our God-given identity.

In Ephesians chapter 2, Paul talks about the change that occurs when we have Christ in our lives. A literal before-and-after transformation from darkness to light. Let's take a closer look at the passage.

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10.

How does it feel to know that we were dead before Christ saved us?

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According to verse 2, who is the one that rules this world? Who is he now working in?

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What does it mean that we formerly walked according to the course of the world? (Before Christ, we lived however we wanted to—indulging the lusts of our flesh.)

Is there any part of verses 1-3 that is hard to accept? Why or why not?

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The passage states, "We indulged the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest." Francis discussed how children of wrath believe the lie that you can "do you" or do whatever you want and be a good person. **Why is being a good person not enough?**

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RE-READ VERSE 4-6.

What has changed about us after we accept Christ? (Went from dead to alive.)

For what reason did God make us alive together with Christ?

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After re-reading these three verses, what part have you contributed to your own rescue? (We contribute nothing.)

When God saves us from being the real-life "walking dead" and brings us into new life through Christ, we become new creatures. Ephesians 2:10 says that we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, that God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. This role ties into our identity as believers.

According to verse 10, what is a major part of our identity?

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When we feel the pressure to live a life based on someone else's desires, what can we focus on as a reminder of our true purpose?

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We were saved for a purpose. And that purpose is to walk in good works (spread the gospel). We've all been given a mission by God. In Rachel's story, she felt as if she had no purpose, but God used her when she began to serve him.

If we were created for good works, where should our focus in life be?

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In what ways can you make sure that verse 9 is evident in your life?

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What do these verses tell us about God and his character?

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What is the relationship between grace, faith, gift of God, and “not of works” out of verses 8–9? (They all are Gods work, not ours.)

During this session, we’ve also learned that not only does Scripture teach us about who we are, but Scripture also teaches us the truth about our purpose. Part of that purpose is bringing others into a new life with Christ.

Matthew 28:18–20 says, “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’” As Francis stated in the video, this is what Rachel experienced and started to act on after accepting Christ. She began to take part in spreading the gospel and making disciples. **Do you find sharing your faith with unbelievers challenging? Why or why not?**

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What might sharing our faith with believers look like? (Helping them mature, being a good example, answering questions, etc.)

How does Matthew 28:18–19 serve as a help when sharing our faith?

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► LAST WORD

As we finish up, take a moment to reflect on what we’ve discussed. Reflect on all the ways you’ve allowed the world, your friends, or even your family dictate who you are supposed to be.

As believers, what is our role in this world?

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How can you be more proactive in sharing the gospel to your classmates, friends, and strangers?

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Share with someone sitting next to you a few “I am” statements about your identity. **Who are you in Christ? What have you become in Christ? What do you have because of Christ?**

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This week remember that Jesus Christ is the giver of our identities. We don’t have to live as we once did. We don’t have to be ashamed of the past issues people bring up about us.



FINDING TRUTH

FRANCIS CHAN

SESSION 3:

THE SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE

QUICK START

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

PRINT

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

► ICE BREAKER

For this ice breaker, you will need any assortment of 5–10 objects (books, backpacks, water bottles, etc.). Choose three students for the activity.

The goal is for the students to get each object from one side of the room to the other, one by one, in less than thirty seconds. Each student will be given a different part of the body they cannot use (one cannot use their hands, one cannot use their feet, one can be blindfolded or has to close their eyes). This activity should display the importance of how each member of the body is important to fulfill the mission (each member of the body of Christ is necessary—we cannot do this life alone).

This ice breaker may be done in a hallway or in a any space that's large enough for a race.

Leader: Okay. You will have thirty seconds to get each object to the other side of the room against the wall, one by one. Get creative. How can you get each object to the other side faster? (They can form an assembly line, or each person grab an object at the same time, they can throw the objects to one another.)

Good luck!

(Start a timer and see how the students do. Once they're finished, have everyone sit back down in their seats.)

Leader: How was the activity for each of you? What made the task hard, and what made it easier? Would you have been able to do the task by yourself?

This week we're going to talk about how Scripture is the source of our confidence. The Bible gives us everything we need to know about maturing in our relationship with Christ. But sometimes, life's circumstances make it hard to walk through them alone. We need others to come along side us to help with their giftings.

In the activity, we saw how each person had a different advantage because of what body part they could use. As the body of Christ, we all have different gifts that are just as important for the overall goal of serving God and serving others.

► VIEW

SHOW SESSION 3

► REVIEW

In the first story, what was Sydney's impression of how Christians were supposed to live? (All you had to do was go to church and believe in God.)

What was the result of Sydney's decision to stop going to church and to stop reading her Bible?

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Sydney grew up in church and knew a little bit about the Bible but wasn't living it out. She thought that occasionally going to church was all that was required. **Have you ever had this mindset about being a Christian? What do you think a Christian is?**

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How did Sydney's apathetic attitude toward Christianity affect her decisions? (She indulged in sex and drinking.)

Francis shared the truth that God's intention for us is more than a personal relationship with him, but to be active with other members of the church. **Why do you think it's so easy for people to walk through life alone? Do you seek out help when you have problems? Why or why not?**

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Sydney became depressed while doing everything she knew was harmful to her. **What was her turning point? What started to bring her the joy she was missing?**

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Sydney mentioned that she continued in her lifestyle because she figured that God would forgive her in the end. It was her mindset that led to her negative sinful actions. **Have you ever thought this way? How can this mindset cause damage?**

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Sydney's story showcases how the Holy Spirit allows for spiritual gifts to build others up. (She started learning and telling her friends and parents.) **How did living for God change Sydney's confidence?**

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In the second story, what was the reason behind Zion's desire to bully others?

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Zion became a mean and arrogant bully because of his own fear and insecurities. **Have you ever let fear dictate your personality? What did that look like?**

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How did Zion's judgements about other's affect his personality and attitude?

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What did Zion learn about Christ's character after watching the crucifixion play?

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Zion realized that his actions were similar to that of the enemies of Jesus (being bullies). Frances pointed out that it was seeing Jesus story of abuse that changed Zion's desire to become more like him. **What in your life right now that makes you want to be more like Christ?**

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Zion realized that Jesus loved and died for him, even though he was acting like the enemies that bullied Jesus. **How did this change his perspective about God?**

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What does being a servant look like for Zion now? How has his life changed for the better?

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Francis explained how even though Jesus was God-in-flesh, he didn't do anything on his own accord but only followed after the Father's example. **What does this mean for you and your decisions? What do you find difficult about being obedient the way Jesus was?**

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If Jesus is the ultimate example of confidence, then we can be confident in our ability to live righteously as well. It might be hard, but it will be worth it.

► BIBLE JOURNEY:

In session two, we learned about our identity in Christ and why living our life built on any other foundation can be disastrous. The world is constantly trying to tell us who we are and what to do, selling us a false confidence. But true confidence is found in Christ. He gives us the tools we need to live righteously and shine our light before our friends.

This week we were going to focus on how the Spirit of God not only transforms us, but also influences our decisions and actions. He gives us the confidence to spread his Word and live righteously.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31.

Paul is pointing out that, in the same way our bodies have many different parts, Christians (or the church) represent different parts that make up the body of Christ. The quarterback on a football team might get the most attention, but the team would suffer without the tight end or the wide receiver. Every team needs each of its players, and the church is no different. We're all headed toward the same goal.

We need all of our body parts. Our entire body benefits from each. Our hands help in ways that our feet cannot, but our feet help in ways that our heart cannot. No part is more important because they all add their own unique value.

Which words are repeated multiple times throughout this passage? What is the significance of each word? (There is only one body, the body has many members, the members are different people.)

How important is each part of the body, according to this passage?

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Have you ever felt like an unwanted part of a team? How did it make you feel? How should this verse help those who feel unwanted?

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What value do you feel as a result of reading through this passage?

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God wants us to be unified together as the body of Christ. All of us representing a different part of the body through the gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit. This is so Satan cannot come in and divide us and we can care for one another, build each other up, and let no division come in and destroy us.

What is the Holy Spirit’s role in the body of Christ? (See v. 13.)

Zion’s bullying was dividing him from other members of the body of Christ. It wasn’t until he accepted Christ that he began to care for others and focus on encouraging them. **What does his story show us about our role in the body of Christ?**

When Sydney started living for Christ, she started to tell other people about her new life and love for Jesus. She even got her parents to start attending church again. **How does Sydney’s story show us how important our role is as a Christian?**

What does this passage show us we have in common? (We share the same Holy Spirit, no matter if our gifts are different.)

What does this passage instruct believers to do? How are we supposed to treat each other?

Many times, we walk through life allowing our friends or classmates to tell us who we are. They look at our appearance, our behavior, and our talent and make assumptions about who we are. But verse 18 states, “But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as he desired.”

Who gives each member their rightful place and function in the body? What does it say about how God sees us?

READ EPHESIANS 4:11–16.

God has the desire for his people to be united and to be planted firm on the truth of his Word. In verse 14, Paul says the result of spiritual maturity is no longer being “tossed here and there” by different doctrines, trickery of men, and schemes made with a deceitful heart. In order to mature and keep from being vulnerable to dishonesty, we have to make gathering together a priority and encourage each other along the way.

Why did God give certain gifts to people? (For the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, and to build up the body of Christ.)

How do those gifts benefit the body of Christ?

What does it look like for Christians to be tossed here and there by doctrine or opinion?

What level of teamwork should be apparent among Christians based on the verses we read? Do you consider yourself teammates with your Christians friends? Why or why not?

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Throughout this series, Francis has discussed how the enemy is full of lies and wants us to live in isolation. But we're learning that there is power when we're unified. God wants us to build each other up and use our gifts to do it. **What might it look like to use your gifts for someone else?**

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Have you ever been encouraged or inspired by someone else's gift?

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After Zion accepted Christ and left the bullying alone, his heart was for encouraging others. **How does Zion's testimony show the importance of unity?**

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Remaining obedient to the Lord can be a hard thing to do. We feel as if we'll miss out on all the fun and it seems just plain hard. But when we are confident and secure in what God says in his Word about our purpose in life, our obedience becomes a loving choice.

► LAST WORD

We've finished session three. So far, we've covered why we can trust the Bible, finding our identity in Scripture, and using Scripture as the source of our confidence. **What have you learned so far that as had an effect on you?** Take a moment to reflect on our journey thus far and write down what the Lord is doing in your heart.

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Has there been anything new and surprising you've learned?

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Is there any part of your lifestyle that will change after going through this study?

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Leader: Give the students a few minutes to think, pray, and journal on the back of their handout.

Let's pray.



FINDING TRUTH

FRANCIS CHAN

SESSION 4:

A CHANGED LIFE

QUICK START

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

PRINT

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

► **ICEBREAKER**

You will need a flashlight for this activity and any small object to hide in a secret place of your choosing (a key, a pen, sunglasses, etc.). When everyone arrives, choose one student to be in charge of the flashlight.

Leader: Today, we are going to play a game that requires you to find an object I've hidden in the room. But there is a catch—the lights will be off and you will have to work together to find the hidden object. At any given time, you can call for help from the group member with the flashlight, but they can only shine their light in the place you chose for five seconds. After five seconds, you cannot call on their help for another two minutes (Leader, make sure to keep time with your phone, to ensure their usage of the flashlight helper).

Allow the students to figure out their strategy and make guesses as to where the object is hidden. Make sure the object is hidden in a good place so that they will not be able to find it quickly. The lesson depends on them having to ask for the student with the flashlight to help them.

| **Leader:** Okay! Ready, set, lights out!

After the game is finished, have everyone sit down to discuss.

For those searching for the object, how difficult was it without the light?

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Was it frustrating to have the light for a while, only for it to leave again?

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Do you have a greater appreciation for light? Why or why not?

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Today's lesson will talk about experiencing a changed life. Part of a changed life is the responsibility that comes with it—letting our light shine before other people. As you could see in the game, it was hard to maneuver through the room in the dark. But with the help of someone with the light, they could steer you in the right direction.

You have the power to help others have a changed life.

► **VIEW**

SHOW SESSION 4

► **REVIEW**

Let's look back to Diego's story. **When did Diego's trauma begin? How do you think being so young when his father died affected his life choices early on?**

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What was Diego's breaking point? What outlet did he use to deal with the situation? (He went to social media when his mom got cancer.)

Everyone wants to feel seen. We want to know that people care about our inner-most thoughts and issues in life. When Colby reached out to Diego after seeing his post, Diego mentioned that it made him feel seen and cared about. **Have you ever had a stranger help you through a tough time?**

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Diego and Colby are different in almost every way, but this didn't stop them from forming a great relationship. **Why do you think it was easy for Colby and Diego to befriend each other?**

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When Diego first started going to church with Colby, it was more of a way to socialize and meet girls. He hadn't truly learned what church was for. **Have you ever had a similar mindset about church? When or why did your perspective change?**

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In what way did the youth pastor's financial help for camp have an effect on Diego's faith?

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In what ways did Diego's life completely transform?

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Looking back to session two, we talked about being made alive after walking in death before Christ. Christ saved us from the power of death, so that we could have a new life and be transformed with a renewed mind. **How does Diego's life reflect this Scripture?**

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Colby mentioned that he was excited when Diego continued to live for Christ, even though most teens stop after the camp "high" wears off. **Who in your life is rooting for you? Who are you rooting for?**

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What was the main resource Diego used to mature in his relationship with God? (Was it prayer? Reading the bible? Listening to sermons?)

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Diego read a Scripture that hit close to home, which helped solidify his faith in the Bible. **Have you ever had a Scripture hit close to home? How does it feel to know that the Bible can be helpful for your personal problems?**

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Taylen began to struggle when her schedule became jam packed with obligations. **Can you identify with Taylen? How difficult is it to juggle school, work, and extra curriculars?**

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Have you ever been like Taylen, putting God at the bottom of your check list? Why do you think it's so easy to put other obligations before God?

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Taylen's insecurity about her worth bled into her relationships and how she interacted with friends. **What was the turning point that helped her overcome this?**

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Why is knowing your worth a first step to helping other people?

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Have you ever let fear or insecurity keep you from telling others about Jesus or helping others through their problems?

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Part of this Christian life is taking hold of our responsibility to help others—but it only comes from spending time in his truth and knowing the word.

READ GALATIANS 6:1-3.

According to this verse, should we be embarrassed when Christian friends help us through sin?

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Why is being spiritual (or mature in your relationship with God) important for your relationship with others?

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What does it mean to bear someone else's burden? How do you feel about bearing someone else's problems?

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What do these verses teach you about Christian responsibility? What is the responsibility?

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How do you see these verses reflected in Taylen's story? (She couldn't help her friends until she began to fill herself with the word.)

Taylen realized that her Bible was what was missing from her life. **How did incorporating Scripture change her lifestyle?**

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Taylen's story shows us how easy it is to let routine and obligations take hold of our life and free time. But our spiritual growth won't happen without effort. Reading our Bible's is a choice we have to make.

► BIBLE JOURNEY

God wants to change your life. Not just for you to experience great things, but for others to experience that greatness as well. So far, we've learned that the truth of Scripture gives us our identity and our confidence. When we find the truth in our Bibles, we will slowly but surely start to see changes taking place. Following Christ should change the way we make our decisions, the way we treat others, and the way we view ourselves.

Staying connected to God through the reading of his Word is important. It is tempting to lose sight because we cannot see him. But even though we can't see him, we are deeply connected, just as a branch is connected to a vine.

READ JOHN 15:1-11.

Who is the vine and the vinedresser in this passage? Who are the branches?

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What must the branches do in order to remain in the vine? (Bear fruit.)

It's tempting to think that being a Christian is just about believing in God and attending church every once in a while. But this passage describes how deeply connected we are with the Lord. **What is the key to producing fruit in the lives of Christians?**

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What does the gardener do in order for the vine to become more fruitful? Does this sound painful? Why?

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The word "abide" is used nine times in this passage. **What do you think it means to abide in Jesus? Why is it so important for the Christian?**

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One thing about bearing fruit is that it is visible proof that something special is happening inside of us (thanks to the Holy Spirit). **How could bearing fruit be a benefit to other people? How can bearing fruit be a cause of someone coming to Christ?**

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Verses 4-5 bring up an important idea. Without God, we cannot do anything. As we think back to session two, we learned that, before we accepted Christ, we were dead and became alive through his transformative power. We also learned that we were saved by grace through faith, and it wasn't because we were "good enough" to be saved. **What does this say about God's involvement in our process of transformation?**

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The Lord never intended for us to experience his love solely based on a personal experience. He desires for us to have an awesome personal relationship with him, but he also wants us to influence and impact and show his love to others around you. **As you continue to live a connected life to Jesus and bear fruit, how can your life serve as a witness to unbelievers that are around you?**

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Can someone bear fruit while disregarding Jesus’s commands? Why or why not?

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Francis mentioned that Jesus wants more than us to believe in his existence—he wants us to be in relationship with him. When we’re in relationship with Christ, we’re connected to him in a way that makes us unified with him. **How does this remind you of the unified body of Christ we discussed in session two?**

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If growth and change are not happening in our lives, what can that possibly say about our “attachment” to Christ?

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Verses 9–10 show us that abiding in Jesus means keeping his commandments and loving one another. **What are some practical ways you can abide in Jesus? How can you start loving others more?**

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What happens when the branches become disconnected to the vine?

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When we bear fruit, what do we prove ourselves to be? (His disciples or followers.) How is this important in relation to being around unbelievers?

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Verse 10 shows us that Jesus is the ultimate example. He remained in the Father’s love and calls us to abide in his love in the same way. **If Jesus was successful in abiding, what does that mean for you and me? Does this bring you any comfort?**

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We go through difficult seasons that make us want to quit. But if we remember the grace that God bestowed on us, changing us from children of wrath to alive in Christ, we can find the motivation to keep going. God has filled us to the brim with his grace and love, and we are to show the same grace to others.

READ MATTHEW 5:14-16.

Who is the light of the world according to Jesus? What is the main purpose of light?

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What is our light? How can someone let their “light” shine?

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What does Jesus say you should do with the light you have? What is the outcome?

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At the end of the video, Francis says, “God saved you for a reason. It’s so that you would stand out the same way that light does in darkness. Remember what we’ve said all along. The whole world lies in the power of the evil one, and how he’s blinded the mind. The Bible talks about how they walk in darkness. You, through the power of the Spirit, are the solution to all of that. You’re actually a light in the darkness.” **How does this make you feel as a Christian? What does this say about your purpose, your confidence, and your identity?**

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▶ LAST WORD

For our last session, we discussed the aspect of a changed life in Christ. As believers, we should be shining our light around our friends and family, remaining united to one another.

How does your public life need to change?

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What habits do you need to begin to practice to more fully align your life with the truth of Scripture?

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As a Christ follower, you give light to those around you by living how Jesus lived. This means, if we’re going to be influencing others, we have to know about the example we follow—we must know the truth of Scripture.

rightnow MEDIA



FINDING TRUTH

FRANCIS CHAN

PARTICIPANTS' HANDOUTS

HANDOUT

We're learning about the truth of scripture and how important it is to apply God's word to our daily lives. One way we can be sure to incorporate it into our lives, is to constantly see it and read it.

There are a few different places we engage with every day like our bathroom, our car, our locker at school or our bedroom. Cut out the scriptures provided below and tape them to your bathroom mirror, the dashboard of your car, or the wall near your bedside. If you have other favorite scriptures, write them down on a sticky note and do the same thing!

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

PROVERBS 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding.

ISAIAH 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my right hand.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

FINDING TRUTH

GALATIANS 3:26

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

EPHESIANS 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

God has not given a spirit of fear, but one of love, power and a sound mind.

In session two, we discussed identity. As Christians, it is important for us to know who we are in Christ and how his work has affected our eternal life. In our former state, we needed God's grace to transform our lives.

The first column describes who we were before Christ saved us. The second column is our identity now that we are saved and living for God. In the third column, write down your response to these transformations. Take time to reflect on each one and think about how you can live life differently with this new identity.

<i>BEFORE CHRIST</i>	<i>AFTER CHRIST</i>	<i>HOW WILL I LIVE?</i>
Dead in sin – Eph 2:12	Alive in Christ – Eph 2:4-5	
Slave to sin – John 8:34	Free from sin – Gal 5:1	
An orphan – John 1:12-13	Son/Daughter of God – 1 John 3:2	
Lost – Luke 15:4	Found – Luke 15:6-7	
Unclean – Isaiah 64:6	Cleansed from sin – 1 John 1:7-9	
In debt – Gal 3:13	Bought by Christ – 1 Cor 6:20	
Eternal death – Matt 25:41	Eternal life – Romans 6:23, John 3:16	

As the body of Christ, we want to serve one another well. Each of us have something unique we bring to the table that God gifted us with. However, our unique place within the body of Christ is not just for us but for others.

We all love a little encouragement. So, what's better than a personal message written by a friend? Tear or cut off the bottom half of this page to write an encouraging note to a friend, classmate, or family member. After giving them your note, be sure to pray over them this week.

FINDING TRUTH

Our behavior doesn't just manifest itself in certain ways for no reason. When we are exhibiting certain behavior, we can look to our heart to see why. As a Christian, Jesus wants us to bear the fruit of the Spirit and be a godly influence on those around us.

For this game, find the root issue on the right-hand side that correlates with the work of the flesh or fruit of the Spirit on the left-hand side. Draw a line from one side to the other to match each pair.

WORK OF THE FLESH

Jealousy

Fits of Anger

Drunkenness

Rivalries

Envy

Idolatry

Lack of Self Control

Discontentment

Pride

Apathy

Fear

Dissatisfaction

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Love

Kindness

Self-control

Patience

Joy

Peace

Trust

Bearing one another's burdens

Contentment

Sacrificial actions

Abstaining or resisting

Serving others