

Identity - Series Intro

☀Introduction

- Introduce concept of topical study, this is how most do it, not norm for us, no biggie.
- Introduce the over all concept of the series.
- This session Biblically sound concepts, not much expo.
- “Once upon a time” group experiment.
 - Story - Beginning, middle, end. Normal, catalyst, new normal.
 - Characters go through changes, ID crisis, new ID.
 - This process is what God has for us as believers. This is what we are going to explore.

☀Concept of a story

- “Once upon a time...” Star Wars “In the beginning”
 - Every story has a beginning. Duh. Establishes “normal”. Need to know normal to appreciate.
 - What would a story be without tension, conflict, an objective?
 - Need resolution. True love conquers, Luke gets the medal. All things are made new. Not just back to “normal” but a new normal. Nothing will be the same now.
- Characters
 - Characters go through changes, we vicariously do too.
 - Shakespeare and Hamlet, “the play is the thing”
 - In the end, previous sense of ID is either destroyed or reborn
- This is the point of a story
 - Sometimes try to fight or fix the change, has to go with the flow. Peter.
 - ID is challenged and changed through time and circs. as change is resolved.

- New normal, new ID suited to live in new normal. Sequels.
 - New ID dealing with elements of old normal.
 - New challenges further define new ID

☀ Our Stories

- Everyone loves stories, everyone is living one
 - We all want to be more than we are, can only modify.
 - We go to someone else (riff) but they can't help. Why? Same!
 - Boys with Legos. *We can't be more b/c don't have pieces.*
 - Nothing can become more than it is by itself.
 - *Realize, you are in a story, can't fight or fix, can be changed.*
 - Impulse to go outside is good one, need to go to right place.
If we are in a story where should we go? The Author. Eph. 2:10.
 - This being the case, need to rec. that He is the one who intro. catalyst. Why? To get us to question\call on Him. Otherwise, wldn't.
 - Problem - we wan't God to change circumstances of our story.
 - * Imagine Luke telling George what to do with Star Wars. Luke can't see the end from the beginning, George can. Same with God.
 - * *We tell God to change our circumstance when God wants to change us to overcome our circumstances.* Repeat. The problem isn't our circumstances, the problem is us. Need a new identity.
- Do you know who you are?
 - Unbeliever experiencing catalyst? Believer missing something, feeling like you've never really gotten it?
 - There is a fundamental change in our character, our identity that needs to take place.
 - *Outline for series*
 - *Where we began, where we've been, our "normal".*
 - *The fundamental change in our character, ID, really nature.*
 - *Living in the new normal in our new ID.*
 - Going to be all over scripture, also going to use comic heros.
 - They have been through a fundamental change, new ID, secret ID, nemesis, illustrate scriptural truth.
 - Sounding man-centric? I believe Bible is Jesus-centric, yet Jesus did it all for a reason; you, me. New ID, be workmanship, pwr of HS.

● Been saved, or being saved?

● Did Jesus die and rise again so we could go to Heaven? Yes. But what about here and now? How much of Bible is about Heaven vs. now?

Not talking about health and wealth and living your best life now.

Talking about

* being a new creation. 2 Cor. 5:17

* Jesus living in you and through you. Galatians 2:20

* being reconciled to God. Romans 5:10

* being transformed by the renewing of your mind. Rom. 12:1-2

* overcoming the world though faith in Jesus. 1 John 5:4-5

* Heaven is our destination, our "The End", but the story of our lives is still being written. Who are you in the story?

☀ Do you know who you are, who you can be?

● You are

● the servant of a loving Master

● the son/daughter of a loving Father

● part of the bride of a loving Husband

● the friend of God

● have died and been resurrected, born again to a new life in and through Jesus who lives in and through you.

● Does that sound like you?

● Unbeliever, can't have that apart from Jesus.

● Believer, missing out? Don't have to.

● Gospel.