



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 62:5-8

- ⁵Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
- ⁶Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
- ⁷My salvation and my honour depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
- ⁸Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.

- **Pray:** Resurrected and Victorious Lord Jesus, on Sunday we celebrated your resurrection and victory over sin, death and the devil. A victory which you invite us into as your loved and restored people. We come together now seeking to live and walk in that victory; to learn how to live the new life that you have won for us and to bring that life to the world around us. May our new identity as your people be evident for all the world to see every moment of our lives. Amen



SHARE life together

1. **What are your highs and lows since you last met?**
2. **When is the last time you were required to show someone some form of identification (drivers licence, passport, proof of age card etc)? What was it for?**
3. **Have you, or anyone you know, ever had your identity 'stolen'? If you can, share a little about that experience.**

There have always been different ways that people have been identified. In the past we might have been identified by our cultural heritage, by our sex, our ideals and world views, or faith, our socio-economic status, our employment. These days it seems to be frowned upon to identify someone by any of these things. Our society seems to be suggesting that people identify themselves by how they feel they would like to be identified even if these self-defined identities fail to match up with reality.

Week beginning:
Monday 21st April 2025

Worship series:
IDENTITY CHECK
#1 Show me your Faith



VERSE for the week

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:21-22

(Full Text – John 20:19-31)



REMEMBER this week

Only the resurrection of Jesus provides an unfiltered image of full and eternal life.

You often hear people within the church lamenting this fact as something that only happens outside of the church but is that really the case? How often do we fail to live in or acknowledge the identity we now have in Christ as Children of God. Does the way we live match up with the reality of our resurrection identity in Christ? That's the focus of our new series, "Identification Check". Each week we'll look at a different element which characterises the resurrection life we now have in Christ and see how living in the reality of that identity helps others to identify us as followers of Jesus and helps them see him living in us.

This week we look at what it means to live by faith and how we show that faith as we follow Jesus. Take a look at the passage from John 20:19-3 [here](#), or in your own Bible.

4. **Try to retell this story of Jesus in your own words.**
5. **What verse/concept/teaching in this reading caught your attention today and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about it for you this time?**
6. **We often give Thomas a hard time because of the doubt he expressed in this story, but look closely, he is only asking to see the same evidence that the other disciples had been shown. How can we, who have not 'seen' Jesus in the same way that the disciples did, help others to see what we have seen of Jesus?**
7. **Jesus was marked by his death and resurrection. The wounds in his hands, feet, and sides were the visible proof to the disciples that this was actually Jesus, risen from the dead. How is your life marked by the death and resurrection of Jesus? How are those marks visible to those around you?**



Faith is an important identifying factor of a disciple of Jesus. However, Christians are often accused of having 'blind faith'. What is meant by this is usually, that Christians believe in Jesus and his death and resurrection with no evidence and will often still believe when provided with 'evidence' that refutes the resurrection. Unfortunately, in some cases these accusations can be correct. Many Christians simply accept the faith that has been handed down to them from their parents, or taught to them by Christian friends without really questioning it or wrestling with it.

In 1 Peter 3:15, we are cautioned against 'blind faith'. Peter writes *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."* We may not have the kind of physical scientific evidence that the world is used to dealing with, but each of us have concluded that faith in Jesus has some validity for some reason or another, if not, then we should find out why we believe what we believe and be ready to share that reason with others.

8. **How would you describe your faith in Jesus? Do you know why you believe or have you simply adopted the faith of your friends or family without really questioning it?**
9. **How would you respond to someone who asked you the question, "Why are you a Christian?" How would you show them your faith and explain the reason for that faith?**
10. **What are some of the reasons you trust and accept what the Bible teaches us about God, his plan for salvation, the state of humanity and the person of Jesus? What have you experienced, what have you heard, what have you seen, what have you learned that gives you reason to believe and trust what the Bible says is true?**



LIVE purposefully

MAKE IT REAL:

Jesus said to his disciples, “as The Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” God sent Jesus to lay down his life for others. God sent Jesus to suffer and to die for our salvation. Jesus was physically marked by the task God had sent him to accomplish. It was these marks of pain and suffering for the sake of others that were the evidence to his disciples that he was who he claimed to be. Jesus is sending us in the same way, asking us to allow our lives to be marked with love and service for the sake of others. These are the marks of our faith, we trust that God will take care of us as we live our lives for his purpose and kingdom, serving and loving others with the same love and service Christ has shown to us. These are the kinds of marks some people need to see before they can believe.

11. **How did you come to faith in Jesus? Was there a person who not only told you about but also showed you the love of Jesus?**
12. **How can you make the ‘marks’ of your faith in Jesus and his resurrection more easily observable or identifiable to those around you?**
13. **How does the disciples all being gathered together in one place help them to clearly share the experience they had of Jesus to Thomas? How does gathering together regularly with other Christians in worship and Bible Study help you to explain more clearly the hope you have in Jesus?**

Plan your weekly devotions or [download the Church Central app](#) for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



PRAY intentionally

- **Praise the Father**, for adopting us into his family and, in Christ, giving us the right to be called ‘Children of God’.
- **Thank Jesus** for the gift of the Holy Spirit who draws us to faith and empowers us to live each day in the joy and hope of Jesus resurrection
- **Ask the Holy Spirit** to help you continue to work out your salvation and to ‘show and tell’ Jesus to all the world.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

[Name], you are marked by the risen Jesus and sent in the Spirit to share life in his name, Amen.