

# GROWING UP IN CHRIST!

LENT 2025 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

## WEEK 1: SETTLED

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

### REFLECTION

Jesus is clear...His identity is settled. He understands himself to be exactly who and what God said.

Christian maturity for us means our primary identity and purpose is also settled.

We are who God says we are: beloved, forgiven, gifted, growing, and redeemed. No need to prove it, just be it. Doing flows from being.

The first pillar of Christian maturity is recognizing and accepting at increasing depth that we are followers of Jesus Christ, first and foremost.

~Bishop Wright

### SCRIPTURE

**Read Luke 4:1-13.** Jesus overcame temptation because his identity and purpose was settled.

**Read** one or more Scriptures about Christians' identity.

- Gen 1:27 - created in God's image
- 1 John 3:1 - a child of God
- Jeremiah 31:3 - loved
- 1 Corinth. 6:11 - a Saint
- Ephesians 2:10 - a masterpiece
- Ephesians 1:6 - accepted
- Ephesians 1:3 - blessed
- 2 Corinth. 5:17 - a new creation
- Galatians 3:13 - redeemed
- 1 Corinth. 4:20 - empowered
- Romans 12:2 - transformed
- Philippians 3:20 - citizen of heaven
- Deut. 31:8 - never alone
- Romans 8:9 - filled w/ the Holy Spirit
- Psalm 139:14 - wonderfully made
- 1 Peter 4:10 - gifted
- Rom 12:5 - part of the Body of Christ

### DISCUSSION

- Identity as God's beloved doesn't need to be proven or earned. How do you try to live into that idea? What's hard or easy about that?
- The first pillar of Christian maturity is identity as follower of Jesus. Where are on the road to Christian maturity on that point?
- Which Scriptures about a Christian's identity most resonate with you? Which are you most grateful for? Which are you trying to live into right now? What does that look like?
- How does knowing who you are in Christ help you be more settled in your Christian walk? How could it help you be more settled?

### ARTICLES

For a fun, intergenerational theological reflection, watch Inside Out 2, and reflect on how "doing flows from being", how identity helps with decision-making, purpose, and reconciliation.

More:

<https://bustedhalo.com/life-culture/inside-out-2-and-the-journey-of-self-acceptance-and-reconciliation>

### PRAYER

*Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*A Prayer of Self-Dedication, BCP 832-833*

### TAKE-AWAY

Pick a Scripture verse about who God says you are. Write it down on a card or post-it and carry it with you. The Bishop says there's "no need to prove it, just be it." How can you more fully embody this identity in your life this week?