



# Sacred City

## Identities and Rhythms Leaders Guide

### **MC Leaders:**

This curriculum is meant to encourage you and your MC to live out the identities that God has given us in the gospel in the everyday rhythms of life. When our MC's begin to go off track it is almost always a result of not remembering or living out of one of these core identities.

Below I have identified the four core identities of a follower of Jesus and defined them for you. There are a few scriptures under each one to help you and your MC see what scriptures are informing them. It could be helpful for you to read each scripture in your MC.

I have also recorded a video for each identity. You can find these videos on the Sacred City Church YouTube page. They go in the order of Family, Missionary, Servant, and Learner. The videos are all less than 20 minutes and at the end of each video are three simple questions to stir conversation around the weeks topic and get your people involved. The last question each week is around the topic of S.M.A.R.T. goals for each identity and rhythm. This question is meant to make you and your MC commit to some things together. It's where the rubber is meant to meet the road, so to speak. Do not bypass this last step. You could even write them down, compile all four weeks' worth of goals and create a covenant for your MC to adopt and sign together. You are saying, this is what it looks like to live as a gospel centered family on mission in this MC and it is going to take everyone of us to really live this out.

I have also given you two samples for the identities of Family and Missionary to help you lead the night out. I think you will get the hang of it and can just follow that format for the last two identities of Servant and Learner. As you lead these nights out, you can either begin with the video, or give the "Key things to keep in mind..." as an introduction, then watch the video, and conclude with the questions.

If you have any feedback on ways to make this better please let me know. I love you and am praying that this resource would serve you and your MC well in the mission of making disciples who make disciples.

For the Glory of God and the good of our City,  
Pastor Justin Dean

# Identities

## Family

We are children of God who live and care for each other as a family. God has always desired a people - an earthly family - who would live in such a way that the world would know what He is like. Jesus said that those who live in His ways and obey His Father are truly His family. Through Jesus we believe we are children of God and brothers and sisters with each other. As family we see it as our obligation to personally care for the needs of one another - both physically and spiritually. We disciple, nurture and hold each other accountable to this covenant life together. We do this through Missional Communities and Sunday gatherings. (*Genesis 12:1-3; John 1:12-13; Romans 12:10-16*)

## Missionaries

We are sent by God to restore all things to Himself. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to take on human form and live within the culture. He worked, ate, and interacted among the people - living in such a way that those around Him could see and experience what God was truly like. Jesus came so that all people, places, and things could be restored to a right relationship with God. In the same way, we believe we are missionaries sent into our culture to restore all things to God through Jesus. We live this out as part of a Missional Community. (*John 1:14; 20:21; Colossians 1:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21*)

## Servants

We are servants of God who serve others as a way of life. Being fully God and fully human, Jesus took on the posture of a servant. He gave His life, even unto death, so that others could experience salvation, peace, and restoration. Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves..." All those who follow Jesus are called to serve in the same humility. For us this means joyful submission to God, leadership and to each other, as we serve whomever God brings into our lives. (*Matthew 20:25-28; 25:31-46; John 13:1-17; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 2:16*)

## Learners

We are disciples of Jesus who take responsibility for our own development and the development of others. As a young man Jesus grew in both height and wisdom. He learned from local religious teachers, by living in community, and through regular times of listening to God. Jesus called others to follow His ways, to be His disciples, and live in obedience to all that God commands. He then sent these followers out to make new disciples. We believe we are also called to be followers of Jesus who take responsibility for our own development and the development of others. This includes both our personal time with God as well as involvement together in training provided by spiritual leadership. (*Luke 2:52; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:2*)

This new identity makes all of life sacred because it is placed in relationship to the living God, our heavenly Father. Out of this new identity flows natural rhythms of life.

We chose the name Sacred City to reinforce the fact that all life is sacred. There can be no division between sacred and secular. "Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). This means that our gospel identities produce gospel rhythms in the context of everyday life.

# Rhythms

## **Listen**

We set aside regular times to listen to God both backward and forward. Jesus listened to God in prayer to know His Father's will. We are also called to listen to God. We listen 'backward' by regularly interacting with God's Word and the Son. We also believe He speaks today through His Spirit in us and through creation. We spend time actively listening 'forward' to hear what God is saying to us today. We also take time to listen to others stories and help them find their lives within God's story. (*Mark 1:35-37; John 16:7-15; Hebrews 1:1-3; Romans 1:20*)

## **Bless**

We intentionally bless others through words, gifts or actions. God desires that all nations — all people — would be blessed through Jesus. And now, as His Body, we believe we live out this mission as we bless others. We intentionally seek God's direction for who He would have us tangibly bless each week. (*Genesis 12:1-3; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 2:12*)

## **Celebrate**

We gather together to celebrate God's extravagant blessings. God calls people to regularly celebrate His goodness and grace. We gather weekly in missional communities and regularly as a larger family, to share stories and celebrate all that God is doing in and amongst us. We invite everyone to these celebrations as a way of displaying God's glory. (*Leviticus 23; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25*)

## **Eat**

We regularly eat meals with others to invite them into the community of God. Meals are a daily reminder of our common need for God and His faithfulness to provide both physically and spiritually. Jesus called us to remember Him and His sacrifice for us through a meal. When we eat together, we commune around this truth. We regularly eat meals with those not in our immediate family or circle of close friends, discipling them toward a life of dependence on God. (*Leviticus 23; Matthew 6:11; 26:17-30; Acts 2:46-47; Romans 12:13*)

## **ReCreate**

We take time to rest, play, create, and restore beauty in ways that reflect God to others. After powerfully and joyfully creating the universe, God rested. We were created in His image and therefore were made to joyfully create and rest as well. We regularly take time to rest, play, create, and restore beauty in ways that reflect what God is like to our community. (*Genesis 1-2:3; Deuteronomy 5:12; Mark 2:23-28; Hebrews 4*)

# Week 1: Our Identity as Family

Key things to keep in mind as we work through this

## GOSPEL

I believe that God Himself has come to rescue and renew all of creation (including me) in and through the work of Jesus Christ.

## GOSPEL IDENTITY

I believe that I have been given a new identity in Christ because of the gospel. I am now a part of God's family on mission sent to serve our world and continually learn to walk in his ways.

## Family

We are children of God who live and care for each other as a family. God has always desired a people - an earthly family - who would live in such a way that the world would know what He is like. Jesus said that those who live in His ways and obey His Father are truly His family. Through Jesus we believe we are children of God and brothers and sisters with each other. As family we see it as our obligation to personally care for the needs of one another - both physically and spiritually. We disciple, nurture and hold each other accountable to this covenant life together. We do this through Missional Communities and Sunday gatherings. (*Genesis 12:1-3; John 1:12-13; Romans 12:10-16*)

## GOSPEL RHYTHMS

As we believe the gospel and understand the work that Jesus has done to bring us into His family, our everyday rhythms of life will begin to change in ways that involve our MC family in normal weekly life.

## Question One

How are we doing at living our our identities as family? Are we really living like a family, or is this more of a meeting/group/event etc?

## Question Two

What are some practical ways that we could improve in each rhythm of life? (*Here are some examples...*)

## Listen

We set aside regular times to listen to God through His word and Spirit. We understand, experience and intersect with God's Story. We could:

- Learn and communicate the Story of God together
- Commit to a Bible reading plan
- Become familiar with each other's personal stories
- Check in with one another throughout the week
- Read the Bible together during MC

## Bless

We intentionally look for ways to bless those in our MC Family. God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to one another. We could:

- Pick up coffee for one another just because
- Babysit each others kids to give couples a date night

- Bring good food and drinks to MC and not skimp
- Text each other encouraging messages throughout the day
- Pray for one-another on a daily basis
- Meet each others needs when they arise.

### **Celebrate**

We regularly gather together to celebrate God's extravagant blessing. We could:

- Gather regularly on Sunday morning and with our MC to celebrate God's grace
- Make our MC gathering a priority!
- Celebrate God's grace by coming together around special events
- Throw a party in MC for Birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

### **Eat**

We regularly eat meals with others from our MC Family We could:

- Pray together weekly in MC before our meal to remember Jesus' Death for us
- Eat a weekly meal together
- Have someone from MC over for dinner
- Bring and prepare meals for one another when we are sick, have a baby, or just to bless one another
- Grab a drink with one another after work

### **ReCreate**

We take time to rest, play, create, and restore beauty to reflect God to others. We could:

- Attend Missional Music Nights together
- Take a vacation together
- Start a gardener's club for our neighborhood
- Start a running club
- Have a moms day out club
- Practice our hobbies together
- Host a Men's/Women's night

### **Question Three**

What are some S.M.A.R.T. goals for us to live as Family?

We have most likely had a lot of good ideas up to this point. That's great! But what are we actually going to commit to as a Family? Can we actually put something down in writing and say, this is what this family is going to look like in a normal week?

### **SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time Oriented**

These are just some possible examples in case you get stuck:

#### **Listen**

- We are going to go through the Story of God together this year
- We are going to share our stories together this year
- We are going to commit to reading the Bible on our own on a daily basis

#### **Bless**

- We are going to try to bless someone in our MC in a tangible way, at least once per week
- We are going to provide meals for those who get sick or have a baby
- We commit to meeting each others needs as much as possible when needs arise

**Celebrate**

- We are going to make MC gathering a priority each week
- We are going to commit to making Sunday gathering a priority each week
- We need to throw more parties! Lets commit to having 1 party per month to just hang out and enjoy one another

**Eat**

- Let's commit to having one person from our MC or church over for dinner each month
- Let's go out for dinner after the Sunday gathering once per month

**ReCreate**

- Let's join the same gym and workout together
- Let's have a monthly cigar night/wine night
- Let's take a vacation together this year

***Close in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to keep the reality of your adoption into the Family of God in the forefront of your minds as you commit to living as the Family of God in the coming weeks.***

## Week 2: Our Identity as Missionaries

Key things to keep in mind as we work through this

### GOSPEL

I believe that God Himself has come to rescue and renew all of creation (including me) in and through the work of Jesus Christ.

### GOSPEL IDENTITY

I believe that I have been given a new identity in Christ because of the gospel. I am now a part of God's family on mission sent to serve our world and continually learn to walk in his ways.

### Missionaries

We are sent by God to restore all things to Himself. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to take on human form and live within the culture. He worked, ate, and interacted among the people. Living in such a way that those around Him could see and experience what God was truly like. Jesus came so that all people, places, and things could be restored to a right relationship with God. In the same way, we believe we are missionaries sent into our culture to restore all things to God through Jesus. We live this out as part of a Missional Community. (*John 1:14; 20:21; Colossians 1:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21*)

### GOSPEL RHYTHMS

As we believe the gospel and understand the work that Jesus has done to bring us into His family, our everyday rhythms of life will begin to change in ways that involve our MC family in normal weekly life.

### Question One

How are we doing at living our our identities as Missionaries? Are we really living like a missionary family, or is this more of a meeting/group/event etc?

### Question Two

What are some practical ways that we could improve in each Rhythm of life? (*Here are some examples...*)

### Listen

We set aside regular times to listen to God through His Word and Spirit. We understand, experience, and intersect with God's Story and we listen to others stories to see ways we can share the gospel. What are some ways that we could be better missionaries through our listening? We could:

- Invite people who don't know the Story of God into our MC to go through the story with us.
- Become familiar with our neighbor, co-workers, friends stories
- Listen for ways to bless those that we are on mission to

*Do we know the needs of those we are on mission to? How can we know them if we aren't good listeners?*

### Bless

We intentionally look for ways to bless those in our MC Family and those that God has sent us to disciple. God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others. We could:

- Pick up coffee for a person we are on mission to just because

- Babysit our neighbors kids to give couples a date night.
- Cook food for those we are on mission to
- Pray for those we are on mission to by name
- Meet the need of our neighbors or those we are on mission to

### **Celebrate**

We regularly gather together to celebrate God's extravagant blessing. We could:

- Invite outsiders into our MC or Sunday gathering. Be consistent with this and don't give up
- Invite those we are on mission to to our parties, celebrations, special events.

### **Eat**

We regularly eat meals with others from our MC family. We could:

- Have someone we are on mission to over for dinner
- Grab a drink with a co-worker after work in order to hear their story and listen for any needs that we could meet

### **ReCreate**

We take time to rest, play, create, and restore beauty to reflect God to others. We could:

- Invite our friends who don't know Christ to come with us to Missional Music Nights together
- Join a gym or a club in order to meet new people
- Host a Men's/Women's night and invite people who don't know Christ

### **Question Three**

What are some S.M.A.R.T. goals for us to live as a Missionary Family?

We have most likely had a lot of good ideas up to this point. That's great! But what are we actually going to commit to as a Family of Missionaries? Can we actually put something down in writing and say, this is what this missionary family is going to look like in a normal week?

### **SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time Oriented**

These are just some possible examples in case you get stuck:

#### **Listen**

- We are going to go through the Story of God together this year and all of us are going to invite at least 1 person to go through it with us
- We are going to commit to learning the stories of all of those we are currently on mission to in order to understand how best to serve them

#### **Bless**

- We are going to try to bless someone outside of our MC in a tangible way, at least once per week
- We are going to provide meals for those we are on mission to who get sick or have a baby
- We commit to meeting the needs of those we are on mission to as much as possible when needs arise
- We are going to use the first Friday night of each month to serve those we are on mission to

#### **Celebrate**

- We are going to make MC gathering a priority each week and invite our friends into it



- We are going to commit to making Sunday gathering a priority each week and inviting people to it
- We need to throw more parties! Lets commit to having 1 party per month to just hang out and enjoy one another and let us invite outsiders into it

### **Eat**

- Each week we are going to eat or drink with someone who doesn't know Christ in order to listen to them with gospel ears and share our life and faith with them
- Let's commit to having one person we are on mission to over for dinner each month
- Let's commit to having coffee with a person from work in order hear their story

### **ReCreate**

- Let's join the same gym and workout together
- Let's have a monthly cigar night/wine night where we invite our unbelieving friends over

***Close in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to keep the reality of your adoption into the Missionary Family of God in the forefront of your minds as you commit to living as the Missionary Family of God in the coming weeks.***