

a.k.a.

UNCOVERING YOUR HIDDEN IDENTITY



## Growth Group Study Guide



# WEEK ONE

## KNOWN

### Quick Review of March 10 Sermon

1. **Read Colossians 1:1-8.** What insight, principle or observation from this week's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or challenging? Did anything confuse you? Please explain.

### Getting Started

2. Attach an adjective to your name that not only describes a dominant characteristic, activity or accomplishment for which others know you, but also starts with the same first letter of your name (e.g. generous Graham, fast Freddy, helpful Hanna , youthful Yvette). Don't let the first letter limit you. What's more important is that you accurately describe how you are known to others. Be prepared to share this with your group and tell why you choose that adjective and/or why others know you for that particular adjective.





**6. Read Hebrews 11:1-6.** What further instruction do we receive here on what it means to be known for our faith?

**7. Read John 13:34-35.**

a. During the last supper, what instruction does Jesus provide on what it means to be known for our love?

b. According to v. 34, why does Jesus say His command to love one another is a “new” command?



# WEEK TWO

## RESCUED

### Quick Review of March 17 Sermon

1. **Read Colossians 1:9-14.** What insight, principle or observation from this week's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or challenging? Did anything confuse you? Please explain.

### Getting Started

2. Have you ever gotten completely lost? What happened, how were you able to find your way and how did you feel?







- d. In Joshua 6:20-23, In the midst of chaos and destruction, God rescued Rahab. In light of her background, why was it significant that Rahab was now considered an Israelite? What surprises you the most about the fact that Rahab is now included in Jesus' genealogy (Matt. 1:5)?
  
- e. We may never have to hide spies or witness the destruction of the Jericho walls, but how does God rescuing Rahab relate to us in a spiritual sense?

### **Taking Action**

- 5. As you consider what you learned from this week's sermon and the discussion we just had, there is a purpose behind God's rescue and why He has saved us for eternity. Consider further insights you can learn from the following questions/passages.
  - a. What are we rescued from (read **Romans 3:23, 8:1-2**)?



# WEEK THREE

## LOVED

### Quick Review of March 24 Sermon

1. **Read Colossians 1:15-20.** What insight, principle, or observation from this week's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or challenging? Did anything confuse you? Please explain.

### Getting Started

2. When have you felt the most loved? What happened to make you feel loved? Tell the story.



- d. What are some beliefs about Jesus Christ in today's culture that Colossians 1:15-20 speaks against? How would our culture respond to the idea that it is only through Jesus that all things are reconciled (the key words being "only" and "all")? Do you agree or disagree with our culture? Why?
4. Reconciliation is the linchpin of Christianity. In sin, all of creation and humanity had experienced a broken relationship with God; we were split from our source of life and wholeness, and we needed that relationship to be healed. Colossians 1:20 speaks of this ultimate work of Christ.
- a. What was the means of reconciliation according to Colossians 1:20? How does **Hebrews 9:22-26** reinforce this? Why is it so important?
  
  - b. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.** What was the purpose of Christ's coming? Who took the initiative? What has this meant to you in your life?

**c. Read John 3:16-17 and Romans 5:8-11.** How does God's motivation of reconciliation spur you towards reconciliation?

**d. Read 2 Corinthians 5:19-20.** What is the method God has chosen to spread the message of reconciliation?

**e. Read Acts 16:23-34.** How is the jailer in Philippi an example of what it means to be loved by God and reconciled to God? What are the top two ways you can relate to the jailer's reconciliation story?

### **Taking Action**

5. Look at the following scriptures: Fill in the table to answer the questions at the top of each column. Decide what specific action you will take this week to respond to God's love for you.

Scripture	How are we instructed to respond to God's love and reconciliation?	How does this change our lives and the lives of others?
John 14:15, 21		
John 15:9-13		
Luke 7:44-48		
Romans 10:14-15		
1 John 4:16-21		

"It was the will of God to crush Him. The Father thought it was fitting to perfect the Son through suffering. God willed what He abhorred." -- John Piper, Desiring God

"Adoption is the highest privilege of the Gospel. The traitor is forgiven, brought in for supper, and given the family name." - J.I. Packer, Knowing God

# WEEK FOUR

## FREED

### Quick Review of March 31 Sermon

1. **Read Colossians 1:21-23.** What insight, principle, or observation from this week's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or challenging? Did anything confuse you? Please explain.

### Getting Started (Choose One)

2. Describe a time when you felt trapped or unable to leave a place or situation but were then liberated. Alternatively, what do you think is the best movie that portrays escape or achieving freedom? Why?
3. Describe a time when you freed someone or something (animal, insect), or allowed someone or something to be liberated. How did you feel?

## Going Deeper

4. How would you define slavery? How would you define freedom? Consider the context of New Testament slavery as you read Romans 6 (below).

“...slavery in biblical times was very different from the slavery that was practiced in the past few centuries in many parts of the world. The slavery in the Bible was not based exclusively on race. People were not enslaved because of their nationality or the color of their skin. In Bible times, slavery was based more on economics; it was a matter of social status. People sold themselves as slaves when they could not pay their debts or provide for their families. In New Testament times, sometimes doctors, lawyers, and even politicians were slaves of someone else. Some people actually chose to be slaves so as to have all their needs provided for by their masters.” (www.gotquestions.org). Slaves were also able to attain their freedom after the period of repayment was accomplished.

5. Let’s now look at what the Bible has to say about spiritual slavery and spiritual freedom. **Read Romans 6.**
  - a. According to this passage everybody is a slave to something. What kinds of slavery are described in the passage? How have you experienced this, both in the past and today?



**6. Read Galatians 5:13-14 and 1 Peter 2:13-17.** As Jesus sets us free from the law of sin and death how can we show Jesus our appreciation and not take what He did for us for granted? That is, how should we use our newfound freedom?

**7. Read Galatians 5:16-25.** How can you experience true freedom in Christ? What does it mean to keep in step with the Spirit?

8. Let's look at an example of what it looks like to be freed. **Read Mark 5:1-20.** Prior to meeting Jesus, the demoniac seemed free to do whatever he wanted, but he was actually enslaved.

a. In what ways was he enslaved?

b. How was he freed from his slavery?

c. How did he choose to use his newfound freedom?

d. What lessons are there here for us?

### **Taking Action**

9. Give some tangible examples of how you exercised your freedom to submit to Christ this week (or will choose to exercise your freedom in Christ this coming week). How do you feel in your freedom as Christ's slave?

10. In **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**, Paul challenges the Corinthians to display their allegiance to Jesus. As a group, read out loud the passage, inserting your own name in the place of the word "love." For example in verse 4, "Jordan is patient, Jordan is kind. Jordan does not envy..." As each trait is read, silently pray to yourself that this would be true for everyone in the group.





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