



### Small Group Notes, Week of 9.08.19 - Secure in who you are

Over a meal or as you gather: Make sure everyone knows each other's name. Think back on the homes you've visited. What was one of the most welcoming? What made it inviting?

Open in prayer.

Review of the "Our Small Group" statement and the group calendar.

Opening our lives to each other includes sharing our "Jesus story," the story of how we said "yes" to Him. This week, the leader and 1-2 others will share their Jesus story, and over the next weeks, everyone will have that opportunity. Consider taking 3-5 minutes to share your story along these lines:

- A snapshot of what life was like before you said "yes" to Jesus
- How you said "yes" to Jesus
- How Jesus has made a difference in your life since that time

If you have not yet said "yes" to Jesus, then you can share the story of how you became interested enough in Him to join this group.

*Pray around what you have heard in each other's stories, and for opportunities to share your stories with others (#sharejesus).*

- Pastor Mark said on Sunday, "the most secure people are the most welcoming people." Do you agree or disagree with this and why?

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

- The Apostle Paul wrote this to a church in Ephesus that was made up of both Gentiles (uncircumcised) and Jews (circumcised). Which people do you think felt more secure and why?
- How does Paul describe the state of people (Gentile or Jewish) outside of Christ versus people in Christ?
- As the people of God where should we find our primary identity and security?
- Name an area in your life outside of Christ where you find too much of your identity and security.

Read Luke 15:11-31

This is a story told by Jesus in which the father represents God and the two sons represent two kinds of people.

- What insecurities does the younger son have? How does the father respond?
- What insecurities does the older son have? How does the father respond?
- Explain who you relate to more with regard to your own insecurities.
- Just like the two sons, God invites everyone to the party, including you and me. If you haven't come in, you are invited to say "yes." You can do that on your own (let your leader know you did), or your leader can walk you through it.

*Pray for God to make us secure in Him and welcoming to others. Pray for our church to experience a work of God in our lives and ministry together.*