

## NMBC Small group notes - week beginning 28th October 2018

### Who do you think you are?

Ideas for study & discussion. Select which questions you feel most helpful to discuss.

#### Starter sequence

- 1 Ask members what they would include under the heading of “**Identity**”...  
suggesting one-word headings or short phrases to say what makes up someone’s identity.  
e.g birth date - achievement - criminal record etc!  
Quarter about 5 A4 sheets and ask one person, with a thick pen, to write each suggestion on separate papers which you can spread out in the middle of the group.
- 2 If you heard a competitor in the Invictus Games wounded in war  
say “**I lost my identity**”, can you suggest what they meant?
- 3 How many of the aspects of identity written on the sheets from 1. are **unchangeable**,  
and which of them can be **changed** if desired?  
On which such issues do we need to do more thinking as a church fellowship?

#### Read Galatians 3:26-4:7

- 4 In these verses there are about 6 different **word pictures** or **images** of what coming  
“into Christ” is like, filling out the meaning of conversion and new life as a Christian.  
Can you identify these pictures and use them one by one to explain aspects of **how the identity of a person changes** when they become a Christian?

#### Read Colossians 3:1-10

- 5 Here Paul encourages Christians, protecting them from “identity theft”!  
How does, or should, **our future identity** in the eternal presence of God  
protect us from identity crisis in our *present* lives?

#### Read Romans 8:14-17

- 6 The test of the identity of Jesus as our true Saviour was that He suffered for us.  
How does our identity - of being ‘in Christ’ - transform our understanding of **trial, difficulty, opposition and suffering**?
- 7 Have a time of sharing of **changes in each other’s lives**.  
Some may have recent changes and ongoing issues; some may be in changing  
circumstances right now; some may be apprehensive about changes ahead.

#### Prayer

Pray over your **sharing of change in each other’s lives**.

Pray for all Christian witness over **Halloween**, especially for hopes for a special time with  
young people at **NMBC**, and for contacts in the community at **Malden Manor**.

Pray for **students away at university**, especially those in their first term: Jonathan Keeya,  
Nina Waller, and Dan Trend.

Pray for **Emily Fuller, Erin & Cameron** now experiencing so much that is new in Kolkata, India.

Pray for the **leadership in this country**, and for leadership in crises across **the world**.

Pray for the people at the **Alpha** evening as the **Course** continues week by week.

For a **final meditation of worship & gratitude**, you could read one of these passages:

**2 Corinthians 4:4-10**

**Ephesians 2:8-9**