

Why are we here?

1. To affirm whether you are called to be married or not.

2. To allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what needs to change or be adjusted in your life so that you have the greatest success at marriage or remarriage.

3. To heal from the past, confront your fears and concerns of the present and future.

4. To learn more about yourself and the Lord’s best for you versus your best.

5. To build an accountable group of friends all on the same journey.

Prayer Structure

1. Form groups of no more than 4 people

2. Discuss your answers as a group, allowing everyone to share; take notes to use during the prayer portion

3. Pray out loud *options*

 • You can read each other answers you wrote down in the form of prayer

 • You can pray for each other in whatever direction

 • Everyone can pray for themselves

 • One person can pray for everyone

Pray for a Mate guidelines:

• Be on time to end on time.

• Respect privacy and/or boundaries

• If your group finishes praying early, please remain quiet until everyone is done.



**Identity Theft and**

**How You Can Prevent It!**

* **ICEBREAKER**: Find someone you don’t know well and share about one thing that has kept you from living abundantly as a child of God (this can be a fear, a regret, unforgiveness, etc.)  [10 minutes]
* **BIG BOARD**: Write on a big board or have folks share out loud their answers. [10 minutes]
* **BIG GROUP DISCUSSION/Devotion on the Topic of:** Our identity in Christ.   [10 minutes]

* **SMALL GROUP 1: Satan’s Ploys to Steal Our Identity**[10 minutes]

**Read/Discuss:**  The theme of this meeting is not about identity theft in the sense of a stolen or compromised credit card and what to do if your personal information gets stolen or how to freeze your credit report so others can’t open new accounts in your name! This session is about a different kind of identity theft -- theft of our identity in Christ and how we can prevent Satan from hacking our joy! I attended the Labor Day Singles Retreat in North Carolina and the theme was: Mission Possible: The Power of One (Colossians 1:28: *He is the One we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ*.). This was a remarkable weekend with Kris Swiatocho and many other singles ministry leaders, with God moving through new friendships, touching hearts and answering prayers!  One of the sessions was about our true identity in Christ, as a child of God. Satan has many tricks in his bag and he knows which ones work most effectively with each of us to rob us of our joy and our hope! He is the master of deceit and disguise, so that we don’t oftentimes recognize his destructive ploys. This impacts our relationships and Satan wants nothing more than to destroy Christ-centered friendships and dating relationships.

**Read: 2 Corinthians 11:14** (New International Version): *And no wonder, since Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

**Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17** (New International Version): *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

**Q: What does God say about our identity if we have turned our lives over to Him?**

[Pray using the guidelines][15 minutes]

* **SMALL GROUP 2: Which One of Satan’s Ploys Do You Struggle With the Most?** [10 minutes]

**Read/Discuss:** Satan likes to use our spiritual gifts and callings against us; for example, if you have the gift of encouragement, he will try to discourage you, etc. With some of us, he uses our pasts to keep us from moving forward and stepping out to be all that God has planned for us to be. He constantly tries to remind us of things we did or said to hurt others and make us feel guilty and hopeless. I once heard something on Klove Christian Radio that aptly applies here: *Satan knows our name but calls us by our sins, God knows our sins, but calls us by our name!* This burden of guilt and shame that Satan tries to inflict can weigh us down so much that we become physically or emotionally sick. He sometimes uses doubt and insecurity to try to crush us, whispering in our ear that we’re not good enough, not smart enough, not pretty/handsome enough to attract a mate, and the list could go on and on until we begin to believe him and journey through that valley of depression. This is not the way that God wants us to live, He doesn’t want to see us weighed down by ghosts from our past, by unforgiveness--either of others or of ourselves, or by overwhelming sadness and despair, but He wants us to live fully and with joy, clinging to His promises and His truth that never changes!

**Read: John 10:10**: (King James Version): *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

**Q: Share in your group about the ploy or trick that Satan uses to discourage or distract you and then pray about it in your group, both for yourself and for each other.**[Pray using the guidelines] [15 minutes]

* **SMALL GROUP 3: How can you protect yourself from Satan’s attempts to steal your identity?** [10 minutes]

**Read/Discuss:** Just as we read in John 10:10, we have a full and complete life in Christ, we are to experience his joy and peace! As we obey Him and trust grows, the more we trust, the more secure we become in our identity in Him. Step out in faith and when Satan tries to discourage you, in that moment, turn that thought over to God! Take a few minutes and think silently to yourself how your life would be different if you started living as though you truly believed John 10:10!!! Being secure in who we are in Christ can mean the difference between living a life of despair and hopelessness and having the joy and peace to live abundantly, resting in our identity as a child of God! Our real identity is in Christ and even though he may try, Satan can never rob us of that! We were bought with a price! We are joint heirs and we are complete in Christ!

**Read: Colossians 2:10** (New American Standard Version): *and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;*

**Q: How can truly believing that your identity rests in Christ make a difference in your dating relationships or if you aren’t dating, in your friendships with the opposite sex? Pray for God’s protection from Satan and his attempts to steal your identity for each member of your group and yourself.** [Pray using the guidelines] [15 minutes]

**The inspiration and some of the material for this topic were from Kris Swiatocho’s retreat session, entitled, *One Truth.***

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