

## The Life I Now Live Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. If you had to choose a new name for yourself, what name would you pick and why?
2. What is one thing you enjoy about where you live?

**Read the following passages:** Galatians 2:19-21; Romans 6:6-7; Colossians 2:11-15; Ephesians 1:3-8.

Paul emphasized the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ not just as historical events, but as transformative experiences for believers. In his letters, Paul encouraged the churches to identify with Christ's death and resurrection, understanding that through Christ, they are freed from the power of sin and raised to new life. The focus is on being "in Christ," which brings about a fundamental change in one's identity and nature.

Through this union with Christ, believers receive eternal life, freedom from the power of sin, wisdom, spiritual blessings, and the ability to bear fruit and do good works. It's not merely about following rules or trying to improve oneself through human effort, but about allowing Christ to live through them by crucifying the old self and being reborn in his resurrection.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What is the significance of the phrase "in Christ" mentioned in the summary? What implications does it have for believers? How does the idea impact our understanding of salvation and eternal life? In what ways does being "in Christ" empower believers to bear fruit and do good works?
2. Read Acts 17:27-28. How does the truth that "in him we live and move and have our being" shape your understanding of identity and purpose? How does this awareness impact your daily decisions and interactions with others?
3. Have you ever felt like you had to earn your place in Christ through your actions or religious practices? How did this belief affect your relationship with God? In what aspects of your life do you often strive to seek God's approval or attention?
4. Reflecting on Romans 6:6-7, how does being united with Christ in his death and resurrection bring about transformation in our lives?
5. Explore the significance of the phrase "I died also to the law" in Romans 7:4. How does this truth reshape your understanding of obedience and righteousness? How does it impact your approach to living out your faith?

6. Paul declares, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." How does this truth reshape your reliance on God's strength over self-sufficiency? Have you encountered challenges in fully embracing your identity in Christ? What obstacles or fears have impeded this journey?
7. How does the idea that the Gospel is more than just escaping hell challenge your perception of Christianity and your priorities in life?
8. Discuss a habit, mindset, or belief that you've struggled to let go of in order to fully embrace your identity in Christ. What barriers have you faced in this process?
9. Consider Jesus' statement, "Without me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). How does this truth resonate with your experiences of trying to navigate life apart from a deep connection with Jesus? What insights or lessons have you gained from these experiences?
10. Reflecting on the analogy of the light bulb needing to be in the socket to shine, have there been times when you've felt distant from Jesus or struggled to remain connected to him as the source of your identity, strength, and purpose? What barriers or obstacles have hindered your "abiding in him", and how have you sought to overcome them?

## **Pray**