grasshoppers
> > > MORE THAN > > >
grasshoppers
Lee Ann Alexander

MORE THAN GRASSHOPPERS

Session 1: The Anatomy of a Grasshopper

Key Scripture

Numbers 13:30–33

Opening Remarks

Our study examines a group of explorers destined to visit new places because God called them to go into a promised new land. We're talking about the children of Israel that God delivered from Egypt through the Red Sea. After just having seen God unleash logic-defying plagues and an indescribable feat of the waters parting, you'd think their confidence in God and His call would empower them. Instead, we see a different picture.

Watch the Session 1 Video

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it sometimes easier to see the positive qualities in others than in ourselves?
2. Pick one word from the Bible that describes a child of God. Why did you pick that word?
3. What can you do this week to reflect intentionally on what the Bible says about your identity?

Closing Remarks

As humans, we have our flaws. The journey we're taking as a group through this series is not a call to put our heads in the sands about who we are; it is a call to understand that the most important part of our identity is who we are in God. He loves us, and His love is the motivation to look at ourselves through a godly lens and see ourselves as He sees us. The first and most fundamental step of establishing or realigning our God-ordained identity is to accept that God loves us.

NOTES:

MORE THAN GRASSHOPPERS

Session 2: Handmade Grasshoppers

Key Scripture

Genesis 1:26–31

Opening Remarks

As humans, sometimes we are proudest of a physical feature people have complimented us on, but perhaps more often it's an achievement we have performed. While we probably wouldn't describe God as "proud," we can fairly say God was well satisfied after creating the first humans. God's delight in His people should help us recognize we have great value in His sight.

Watch the Session 2 Video

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever imagined what it is was like when God created Adam and Eve? Describe what you think happened how God created them from mere dirt.
2. Does your lifestyle reflect and honor the fact that you were hand crafted in the image of God? Whether it be in diet, exercise, dress, or the way we treat others, how can an understanding of being made in God's image encourage us to mindful living?
3. What patterns of destructive, selfish impulses (sarx) have you identified in your life? How can you set safeguards to help you respond to this part of our human nature?

Closing Remarks

It is no small thing to be made in the image of God. We are fearfully and wonderfully made by Him. Reclaiming our God-given identity means understanding that our physical body is a gift from God we should treat with care. It also means recognizing that because God created us with the choice to love Him, we have to contend with our innate selfish human nature. Our healthy identity involves caring for our physical body and creating appropriate safeguards for our selfish nature so we can become who God is calling us to be.

NOTES:

MORE THAN GRASSHOPPERS

Session 3: Redeemed Grasshopper

Key Scripture

II Corinthians 5:17–21

Opening Remarks

We're on a journey to reclaim our God-given identity. One of the obstacles to seeing ourselves as God sees us is when we get stuck dealing with our past. No matter your background, it is almost universal that humans live with the regrets, shame, and labels that come from past mistakes. However, the hope of the gospel is that we don't have to be stuck with our old identity. Jesus gives us hope for a new start.

Watch the Session 3 Video

Discussion Questions

1. What is it about human nature or group mentality that leads to labeling others?
2. How can we overcome the labels others have placed on us? How about labels we have placed upon ourselves?
3. How can we become the new creature promised by Scripture?

Closing Remarks

Redemption is a simple word in theory, but it represents a shift of enormous proportions. To be redeemed requires us to confront our mistakes and our need of a redeemer. Thankfully, Jesus is gracious and infinite in His willingness to take our past mistakes, labels, and shame and exchange them for a fresh slate with peace, mercy, joy, and our past blotted out. With that simple act, we then experience new life and endless hope. Nothing is more important in this study than that each of us leaves here confident that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

NOTES:

MORE THAN GRASSHOPPERS

Session 4: Gifted Grasshoppers

Key Scripture

I Corinthians 2:10

Opening Remarks

We've talked about being handmade by God and reflecting His glory. It is no surprise, then, that He placed within us special talents. Even the fun and quirky talents reflect a unique way God made us, and all of us have something special within us. These gifts are not just for our personal enjoyment but are ways in which we can take part in God's kingdom purposes.

Watch the Session 4 Video

Discussion Questions

1. Without excuses or apology, describe the gifts you believe God has placed in your life.
2. How can you further dedicate your talents to God's service and cultivate them?
3. What safeguards can you place in your life to ensure you use your gifts with humility and in the right spirit?

Closing Remarks

We have so much possibility in this group. Each of us represents talents, vision, and promise. God holds our future in His hand—the same hand that holds all of the universe—and yet that hand is nail-scarred for us. He invites us to do a work for His kingdom. Our response must be one of surrender, of trust, and of willingness to work. God can do supernatural things as a result.

NOTES:

MORE THAN GRASSHOPPERS

Session 5: A Community of Grasshoppers

Key Scripture

I Corinthians 12:12–14

Opening Remarks

This journey to study and reclaim our identity certainly sounds like an individual quest, doesn't it? Perhaps you've thought of phrases like "self-worth" or "self-image" and rightly so. But it's not enough to stop with the work we've done so far to understand we're loved by God, redeemed by Him, and created with gifts. He also created us to take our place in the family of God.

Watch the Session 5 Video

Discussion Questions

1. What does an ideal prayer life look like? What could you do to position yourself in a place to communicate more intimately with God more often?
2. Are you closely connected to other believers outside of your own home and family? How can you develop connections within the body of Christ to fulfill God's design for the church?
3. The fact that we can't live in isolation is probably more evident on social media than anywhere. What guidelines do you think are important to reflect your Apostolic identity through social media?

Closing Remarks

God created us for relationships and connections. While it may be tempting to turn inward and focus only on ourselves, God's plan is for us to understand our identity in relation to others. This week let's inspect our connection to God first by bolstering our prayer and worship. Then let's check our connection to others by ensuring we have meaningful relationships within the body of Christ and reflect a secure and healthy Apostolic identity in our online presence.

NOTES:

MORE THAN GRASSHOPPERS

Session 6: Grasshoppers Ministering to Other Grasshoppers

Key Scripture

Romans 8:37–39

Opening Remarks

Though faith is a common word in the English language today, it has a clear biblical meaning. Our hope as Christians and our sense of identity rests in knowing God gives us power. No matter what we face, He is with us to lead us. In doing so, He calls us to minister to others and serve for His purpose.

Watch the Session 6 Video

Discussion Questions

1. How do our own insecurities affect the way we treat others around us?
2. Suffering, pain, and hardship are the sad realities of living in a world that is not our home. Why do you think we go through hard times, and how should we keep a right focus in those seasons?
3. As a concluding reflection, share your understanding of your identity—who are you?

Closing Remarks

As we conclude this study, the real mark of its impact will be measured in how we endure hard times and serve faithfully in every season. We must bear in mind that God loves us, created us, redeemed us, and gifted us for serving and fulfilling His purpose. All of us have a role to play, and in so doing, we can be God's hands and feet to create change of eternal consequence.

NOTES: