

Discussion Starter: If you were not part of this small group meeting tonight, what would you be doing with this time instead?

## Prayer

### Discussion Questions:

What are the things that you have seen people use to define themselves (*job, performance of children, possessions, reputation, liked by others, etc.*)? What event/thing/circumstance in your life causes you to have your biggest swings (positive or negative) in the way that you define yourself?

Read **Ephesians 2:10** and **Psalms 139:13-14**. In light of these verses, what essential truths should shape our self-definition as much as the items we discussed in the last question (*created by God exactly as I am, created in Christ Jesus*)? If you were giving advice to one of your children or just a younger person, how would you help her view herself primarily through the lens of Scripture – when the other ways she may define herself seem more urgent and substantial?

Read **Psalms 19:1**. Why did God create the universe? Read **Isaiah 43:7**. Why did God choose the Jewish people? Read **Psalms 50:15**. Why does God allow trouble in our lives? Read **John 17:4**. Why did God send Jesus to earth? If the answer to each of these questions is “for God’s glory,” what would you expect God’s purpose for your life to be at its core?

Read **2 Corinthians 3:18** to confirm that we do in fact exist to glorify God. If God created us as beings with the ability to make our own choices, does it seem fair to say that He has determined what our purpose in life should be? Why or why not? What do you think is the biggest obstacle that causes people to struggle with this idea?

Pastor Ramel emphasized that we are called to reflect God’s glory by growing in Christ, serving one another, and reaching our community. Discuss ways that your group can be sure to live out God’s glory in each of these areas over the next 6 weeks of meeting together.

Take some time to discuss a social or service event that your group can do together during or immediately following our current series of meetings. As a possible suggestion, SOBC is hosting *Trunk or Treat* as a community outreach event on Sunday, October 31 – we would love to have your small group decorate a car and spend the evening together passing out candy to the kids of our community.

Spend time praying for each other’s lives and specifically that each of us would cling to our true identity and purpose in Christ.