

TACTICS

> WINNING THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH <
— IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION —

A 13-WEEK DEVOTIONAL FIELD GUIDE



RECOGNIZE DECEPTION. | THINK BIBLICALLY. | STAND CONFIDENTLY. | LIVE ON MISSION.

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ROCKFISH CHURCH RESOURCE

TACTICS: WEEK 8

WHOSE IMAGE?

Identity has never been discovered through self-expression. It has always been received from the One who created us.

MISSION BRIEF

The world offers countless answers to the question, “*Who am I?*” Most of them depend on something that can change—our success, relationships, feelings, reputation, desires, or circumstances. The Gospel begins somewhere more secure. Before asking “*Who am I?*” we need to settle “*Whose am I?*”

If you belong to Christ, your identity is not something you have to invent, earn, or defend. It is received from the One who created you, redeemed you, and calls you His own. When whose you are is settled, the other pieces of identity can finally find their proper place.

TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Stop building your identity on what can change. Begin with what cannot: You belong to Christ.

READ: Daniel 1:3-21

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

Week Eight Battle Rhythm:

Day	Focus	Question
1	Objective + Tactics	Settle whose I am before defining who I am.
2	Terrain	Identify the labels competing with what Christ says about me.
3	Training	Recognize how my beliefs about myself are shaping my behavior.
4	Rules of Engagement	Reject performance as the measure of my worth and receive grace.
5	Unit Cohesion + Mission	Follow Christ into the identity He is forming in me—and help others do the same.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

DAY 1 | REMEMBER: *What Did We Learn?*

OBJECTIVE

RECONNECT

Before Scripture tells us what to do, it reminds us who we belong to. Identity is not earned through performance or discovered inwardly; it is received through relationship with God. The world builds identity around feelings, accomplishments, relationships, failures, or labels. The gospel offers a firmer foundation: we belong to God.

One of the enemy's oldest strategies is creating identity confusion by first sowing doubt about relationship.

In Eden, the serpent distorted God's words and led Eve to question His goodness. In the wilderness, Satan challenged Jesus: "**If you are the Son of God...**" The attack targeted identity by challenging what God had declared.

The tactic still works. If the enemy makes us uncertain about **whose we are**, we become vulnerable to false answers about **who we are**. He tempts us to build identity on approval, achievement, failure, feelings, relationships, or cultural labels—anything less stable than belonging to Christ.

TACTICS

The enemy creates uncertainty about belonging so that identity becomes negotiable.

REFOCUS

Romans 8:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- Where am I most tempted to define myself apart from Christ?
- What circumstances or voices most often make me question whose I am?
- What false identity becomes attractive when I lose sight of my belonging to God?
- What truth from Scripture do I need to return to when that tactic shows up again?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Take a few minutes today and complete this sentence:

"I tend to define myself by _____."

Then ask:

- Is that something that can change?
- Does it describe something about me, or does it define me?
- What does Scripture say about who I belong to?
- How would my thinking change today if belonging to Christ became the starting point of my identity?

Write one simple declaration you can return to throughout the day:

"Before I am anything else, I belong to Christ."

RETURN

God, help me remember that we are created in your image. My identity comes from who you say I am. Amen.

***You will never fully understand who you are until
you settle whose you are.***

DAY 2 | EXAMINE: *What Does This Reveal?*

TERRAIN

RECONNECT

Daniel and his friends were carried into Babylon, but Babylon did more than relocate them. They immediately began trying to redefine them. Their Hebrew names reflected their relationship with God; Babylon gave them new names tied to a different culture and different gods.

The same pressure exists today. Culture constantly assigns labels based on career, politics, sexuality, achievement, failure, popularity, pain, or past experience. Some of those labels may describe part of our story, but none of them has the authority to define us.

REFOCUS

Isaiah 43:1 (NIV) ¹ Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

TACTICS

The enemy's tactic is to attach a powerful label to your life until you begin living as though that label has more authority than what God has said about you.

Culture wants to rename you before Christ can remind you.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

1. What labels have had the greatest influence on the way I see myself?
2. Which of those labels came from circumstances, people, culture, or my past rather than Scripture?
3. How has one of those labels affected my attitudes, decisions, or relationships?
4. What does God call me that needs to become louder than every competing name?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE

Examine: *What label have I accepted?*

Identify one label that has become too important in the way you see yourself.

Complete this sentence:

"I sometimes think of myself primarily as _____."

Then ask:

- Where did that label come from?
- Is it something God says about me, or something life has said about me?
- Has this label begun influencing my decisions or relationships?
- What biblical truth speaks with greater authority?

Write the false label on one side of a card and the biblical truth that replaces it on the other. Carry it with you today.

RETURN

Father, lead me to the truth of who I am. Remind me that you call me by name, and that my identity is secure in You. Amen.

DAY 3 | PRACTICE: *What Needs To Change?*

EQUIPMENT

RECONNECT

What we believe about ourselves does not stay in our heads. It eventually shows up in our choices.

If I believe I am rejected, I will look for approval. If I believe I am powerless, I may surrender responsibility. If I believe I answer only to myself, I will resist correction. But if I believe I belong to Christ and have been made new in Him, that identity begins to shape how I live.

REFOCUS

Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

You live out what you believe about yourself.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

The Identity-to-Action Filter

When you notice a repeated reaction, habit, or decision, run it through four questions:

- **What am I doing?**
Identify the behavior without excusing or exaggerating it.
- **What am I believing?**
Ask what belief about yourself is driving that response.
- **What has God said?**
Compare that belief with Scripture.
- **What would someone who believes God's truth do next?**
Choose a response consistent with your identity in Christ.
- **What should change today?**
Look at the rival you identified yesterday.

ACTION STEP:

Identify one repeated behavior or reaction in your life and trace it backward.

Complete these two statements:

"When I _____,

I may be believing _____ about myself."

Then ask:

- What identity is driving this behavior?
- Is that identity consistent with what God says about me?
- What truth from Scripture directly confronts it?
- What would I do differently today if I really believed that truth?

Write the false belief and the biblical truth side by side.

RETURN

Father, show me where my thoughts and actions are more about a label I've been given, than about the truth of my identity as Your child. Amen.

DAY 4 | *How Does This affect me and the people around me?*

KINGDOM MISSION

RECONNECT

Performance-based identity tells us our worth rises and falls with our results. When we succeed, we feel valuable. When we fail, we question whether we are enough. That same thinking can quietly enter our relationship with God, leaving us constantly trying to prove ourselves worthy of His approval.

God does not free us from performance-based identity so that performance no longer matters. He frees us so that obedience can flow from identity rather than become an attempt to earn it.

We do not serve in order to become accepted. We serve because we have been accepted. We do not pursue holiness hoping God will finally love us. We pursue holiness because, in Christ, we already belong to Him.

That changes how we approach success, failure, work, ministry, relationships, and even spiritual disciplines. We are free to work hard without allowing the results to determine our worth. We can admit failure without allowing failure to become our identity. And we can encourage others without forcing them onto the exhausting treadmill of proving themselves.

REFOCUS

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

***The enemy wants our identity rooted in
performance.***

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- Where am I most likely to measure my worth by my performance?
- How do success and failure change the way I see myself or believe God sees me?
- Where am I serving, obeying, or achieving in an attempt to prove something?
- What would faithful effort look like if I truly believed my acceptance in Christ was already settled?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Notice one area where your performance most affects your sense of worth.

Complete this sentence:

"I feel most valuable when I _____."

Then complete:

"I feel least valuable when I _____."

Ask yourself:

- What does that reveal about where I am finding my worth?
- What am I trying to prove—and to whom?
- How would I approach this area differently if my acceptance with God were already settled?
- What faithful action can I take today without tying my identity to the outcome?

RETURN

God, help me remember my worth is not measured by my performance. Remind me that your grace is not something I have to earn, but a gift you've given me. Amen.

***My performance may change. My position in
Christ does not.***

DAY 5 | MULTIPLY: *Who Else Needs This?*

UNIT COHESION

RECONNECT

The Christian life is not a solo identity project. We don't simply receive a new identity in Christ and then keep it to ourselves. We are formed in community, encouraged by others, corrected by others, and called to help others remember who they are in Christ.

False identities become stronger in isolation. When people are left alone with shame, failure, comparison, pain, or cultural labels, those voices can become convincing. Biblical community helps us remember what is true.

Our mission to go and make disciples means we are to do more than protect our own identity. We help one another resist false identities and keep following Christ together.

Sometimes another believer needs to hear:

- "That failure is not your identity."
- "That label does not define you."
- "Your worst moment is not your final name."
- "You belong to Christ."

REFOCUS

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* ¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

***Our identity is not something we create; it is
Someone we follow.***

RESPOND

BATTLEFIELD ASSESSMENT (What Is This Producing in Me?)

Look at the identity from which you've been operating and ask:

- Is it producing peace or anxiety?
- Humility or defensiveness?
- Gratitude or comparison?
- Freedom or pressure to perform?
- Obedience or self-protection?
- Confidence in Christ or dependence on approval?
- Love for others or competition with them?
- Repentance and growth or shame and withdrawal?

Now summarize it with one question:

If this belief about who I am keeps shaping my life, what kind of person is it forming me into?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Think of one person who may need this truth today.

Ask:

- What label might they be carrying?
- What experience may have shaped the way they see themselves?
- What truth from Scripture speaks directly to that?
- How can I gently remind them of their identity in Christ?

Reach out. Share one simple encouragement rooted in Scripture.

RETURN

Father, thank You that my identity is secure in Christ. Shape me into the person You are calling me to become, and help me remind others who they are in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***We help one another remain grounded in Christ
by reminding each other who God says we are.***
