

“Fight Club”

OPEN IT

- What is a title or label you've been given (serious or funny) that stuck with you longer than expected? Why do you think it lasted?
- When people think about you, what do you hope they are most likely to remember—your accomplishments, your personality, your character, or your faith??



Read It:

- Matthew 16:13-20

Supporting Passages:

- Romans 7:19
- Hebrews 13:4
- Matthew 5:28
- Romans 6:16
- John 3:16
- Matthew 16:17-18
- Romans 7 (broader context of Paul's struggle with sin)

EXPLORE IT

- Throughout the introduction, Jared shares many different titles people know him by. Why do people tend to build their identity around titles, accomplishments, struggles, or roles?
- **Read Matthew 16:13-16.** Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Why is this question still the most important question every person must answer?
- **Read Matthew 16:17-18.** What is significant about Jesus giving Simon a new name ("Peter") at Caesarea Philippi? What does that teach us about how Jesus sees people?

- The message points out that Jesus chose to discuss His identity and the future of the Church in a place known for sexual immorality and pagan worship.
- What encouragement does that provide for Christians living in today's highly sexualized culture?
- **Read Romans 7:19.** Paul describes doing the very thing he doesn't want to do. Why do you think so many believers connect deeply with this verse? What does it reveal about the ongoing struggle against sin?
- **Read Romans 6:16.** Paul teaches that we become slaves to whatever we continually obey. How can habitual sin gradually gain influence over a person's thoughts, choices, and relationships?
- **Read Hebrews 13:4 and Matthew 5:28.** How do these passages challenge our culture's understanding of sexuality, lust, and pornography?
- One of the strongest statements in the message was, "The opposite of addiction isn't sobriety; it's connection."
- Why is isolation often dangerous in the Christian life? How does biblical community help people experience freedom?
- The message compares a loose pebble to a conglomerate rock formed by many pebbles joined together.
- How does this illustration help us understand God's design for the church?
- **Read John 3:16.** Jared emphasized that freedom begins with faith in Christ, not merely behavior modification. Why is it important to start with the gospel rather than simply trying harder to overcome sin?
- **Read Matthew 16:18.** Jesus declared that "the gates of Hades will not overcome" His church. How does that promise give hope to someone who feels trapped by addiction, shame, or repeated failure?
 - What does it tell us about the power of Jesus compared to the power of sin?

DO IT:

- Spend time this week honestly evaluating what labels or titles most influence your identity. Ask God to help you find your primary identity in Christ rather than in your successes, failures, struggles, or roles.
- Memorize **John 3:16** or **Romans 6:16** and reflect on how the gospel speaks into your areas of temptation and struggle.

- If there is a recurring sin, temptation, or burden you've been carrying alone, take one step toward biblical community by talking with a trusted Christian friend, small group leader, or mentor.
- Pray daily this week for someone you know who is struggling with addiction, sexual brokenness, shame, or isolation. Ask God to remind them of His grace and truth.
- Identify one practical way to strengthen your connection to the body of Christ this month—join a group, begin serving, attend consistently, or deepen an existing relationship with another believer.