

A. KNOWING GOD & OURSELVES

- The study of New Wine has taught us many ways Jesus came to “make all things new.” (Rev. 21:5)
- The greatest emphasis of Jesus’ teaching about New Wine was in regard to our relationship with God. (Mt 9:13) He urges His people to learn what this means: Hos 6:6 NLT--I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.
- Our first response is to learn more *about* Him, His character, and His ways.
- But more powerful, relevant, and transformative knowledge of God comes as we pursue deeper, more intimate relationship by opening our hearts to His heart.
- It’s in fellowship with Him that we discover not only more of who He is but we also discover the truth about ourselves.
- “Second only to knowing who He is, there is no greater need that we have personally than to know who we are in Him.” (Sylvia Gunter)
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
The Scriptures have said that you are a New Creation in Christ. How deeply does that truth penetrate your being – head knowledge only, heart conviction, or somewhere in between?

How do you think it would impact your desire to know Jesus more and spend time with Him if you believed “I’m a New Creation” with your whole heart?

- Insights:

B. OLD vs. NEW

- God made us New Creations, changing our identities, by placing His Spirit within us: Rom 8:14-17 AMP--For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.¹⁵ For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!¹⁶ The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God.¹⁷ And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory.
- We come into this world as slaves to sin and are subject to keeping the Law to be made right with God (Old Covenant): Rom 3:20 NLT-- For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.
- As slaves to sin, we find that we are in bondage to our fleshly desires, the allure of the world, and to fear (including fear of man and fear of punishment and death).
- Sin broke our fellowship with God at the Fall leaving us subject to the Father of Lies: Jn 8:44 NLT--For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth,

because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- The Father of Lies tells us we are not God's sons and daughters, but slaves and orphans who should live in fear and shame even after becoming New Creations.
- Holding onto unbiblical beliefs about our identity -- Old Wineskins -- will hinder deeper relationship with the Father.
- Though we have perfect acceptance through the finished work of Jesus and the Spirit of Adoption, our history of bondage to fear and shame has lingering effects.
- Here are some of the most common symptoms produced by fear, shame, poverty or orphan mindsets that remain inside us:
 - Striving to please God in our own strength or wisdom
 - Resisting leaving behind our ways for guidance from God's Word and by His Spirit
 - Doubting that God has our best interests at heart
 - Hesitating to come near to the Lord for fellowship
 - Making choices in life motivated by shame prevention
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Spirit, I want to enjoy my new identity as a well-loved child of God. Show me any of the ways that I have thought like a slave or an orphan (use list above or other signs):

Please help me to trust You to reveal the underlying issues underneath these mindsets. Thoughts:

- Insights:

C. NEW DEFAULT MINDSET

- The very most foundational truth about our identity as believers is that we are children of God.
- Romans 8 uses 2 different Greek words for describing us as children:
 - Huios = Adult Child, full access to all legal assets and authority (v. 14)
 - Tecknon = Baby or Little Child (v. 16)
- We must all start with the little child aspect of our identity both in the physical and in the spiritual arenas. This is the foundation for learning to be led by the Spirit. (v. 14)
- No matter how long you have been in relationship with the Lord, it is imperative to maintain a childlike mindset: Mt 18:3 NIV-- Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- The Father delights for us to come to Him as little children: 1 Kings 3:7, 9, 10 NLT-- Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around...⁹ Give me an understanding heart ...¹⁰ And the Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom.
- Approaching the Lord as a little child -- dependent, in need of nurture and instruction -- provides us with the perfect default identity no matter what our circumstances!
- There are times when no other approach is viable for us. And for the times when we are called to operate from a mature place, it will protect us from self-reliance (pride!).
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Lord, it is true that we are but little children who are wholly dependent upon You. Please help me to see and get more deeply in touch with that part of my being. May I find comfort in Your perfect love and acceptance, Abba Father.
Thoughts:

- Insights:

D. NEW WINE

- Each of us has our own childhood story. If we have unresolved issues we'll have trouble believing our true, new identity and drinking New Wine at the Father's table.
- We're susceptible to continuing in Old Wineskins that are composed of long held convictions that are tainted with slave and orphan thinking.
- Where our earthly caregivers (parents, teachers, authority figures) didn't give us the pure love, acceptance, and safety we needed as children, we need newness!
- Obviously, no human being is capable of perfect parenting, so we need to be open to letting the Spirit reveal anywhere we need the Father to reveal and heal.
- Let's begin this process by tasting and drinking deeply of the truth about our new identity as "child," letting it touch any place where our needs weren't fully met:
 - Impaired sense of belonging: Hosea 1:10 NLT--At the place where they were told, 'You are not my people,' it will be said, 'You are children of the living God.'
 - Unloved: Is 49:15-16 NLT-- Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.
 - Not nurtured: Hosea 11:4 NIV-- I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.
 - Rejected: 1 Sam 12:22 NIV-- The Lord will not reject his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own.
 - Neglected: Ps 139:7-10-- Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

- Ashamed: Is 56:3 MSG-- Make sure no outsider who now follows God ever has occasion to say, 'God put me in second-class. I don't really belong.' And make sure no physically mutilated person is ever made to think, 'I'm damaged goods. I don't really belong.'"
- As our hearts receive these truths to the core and we begin to see ourselves as beloved children of the Father, the result will be increasing security and trust.
- Insights:

A. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING

The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- PROCESSING THE TRUTH

In your fellowship time with the Lord, revisit the verses in part D of this handout to identify any area where you need to receive more of the Father's loving care.

Use these steps to guide you as you bring this issue before the Lord in healing prayer (see the bookmark for more specifics and/or call on your group leader for help):

- 1) Emotions around this issue
- 2) HS-led memory or picture
- 3) Message you believed then
- 4) What is God's truth about you and this issue?