

BATTLE CRY

WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction:

As we walk through our Battle Cry series, one thing is clear: we have an enemy who wants nothing more than to disrupt and distract us from living in the freedom Jesus offers. One recurring strategy our opposition uses is to make us believe we are defined by the pieces of our past we regret or are ashamed of. The Good News for us is that the eternal life Jesus offers is not only a promise for the future, but a purpose for today and a redemption of our past.

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

Romans 8:38-39 — "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Discussion Questions:

1. Many of us love to take snapshots to remember moments and seasons in our lives. Over time, as we revisit these snapshots they can actually shape the way we remember those moments and seasons; some of us even claim to remember moments we weren't present for because we have seen the snapshots or videos so many times. Is there an iconic snapshot that has shaped the way you remember the past?
2. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, what do you think it means that a new life begins when we belong to Jesus?
 - How does that affect the way we act and feel on a real, tangible level?
3. After reading these two scripture passages, what do you think the "snapshot" is that God thinks of when he thinks of you?
4. Sometimes, it seems like a daily battle to truly believe "the old life is gone." Is there a "snapshot" from your past that influences how you see yourself?
5. Part of growing in Jesus is beginning to see the world, other people, and even ourselves the way Jesus does.
 - How is your "snapshot" of yourself different from God's?
 - What do you need to do to start seeing yourself the way God sees you?

Take the Next Step:

Taking a step is about becoming more like Jesus. If your snapshot of yourself is not like his, it's time for a change. What should your new snapshot look like? Reflect on that snapshot & the child of God at the center of it. Throw those old snapshots away.