

Character

Who You Are
A Study on Character

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Introduction

Welcome

Welcome to “Who You Are: A study of character.”

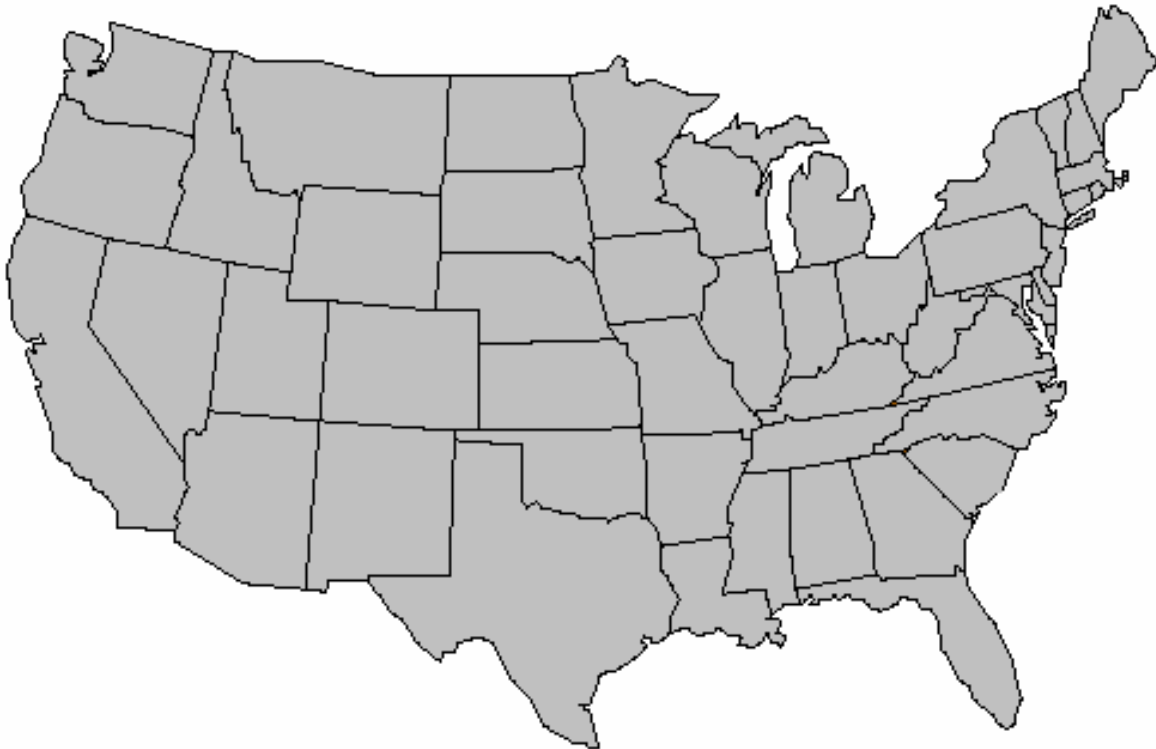
Have you ever stopped to think about who you really are. Not what job you do, not what clothes you wear, not what house you live in... but who you REALLY are. If your family and friends had to describe you, and they couldn't use your physical appearance or any of your possessions... how would they describe you? The words they used would give you great insight into your character... who you REALLY are.

In today's culture... where image seems to matter most, it is easy to lose sight of who we really are. It's easy to forget that our character is what truly defines us. “Who You Are” seeks to rediscover the important things of life. Through this small group you will encounter such topics as Loyalty, Contentment, and Responsibility. By engaging in these topics, your group will begin to see a pattern emerge... a pattern of true character.

Getting to know one another

Before we go any further, we want to take some time to get to know one another. Since this is the first time we are gathering, the majority of our time will be spent becoming familiar with the study and with the group members.

Mapping your Journey...



Introduction

▣ There are 10 things that I want to do before I die... They Are...

- ◇ One _____
- ◇ Two _____
- ◇ Three _____
- ◇ Four _____
- ◇ Five _____
- ◇ Six _____
- ◇ Seven _____
- ◇ Eight _____
- ◇ Nine _____
- ◇ Ten _____

The People in My Group Are...

Name	Phone	Email

Previewing the Study

“Who you Are: a study of Character” takes an in depth look at eight different character qualities that each of us desire to possess. The topics are as follows...

- ❑ Teachability
- ❑ Contentment
- ❑ Responsibility
- ❑ Loyalty
- ❑ Servanthood
- ❑ Justice
- ❑ Purity
- ❑ Forgiveness

Each week as your group meets you will focus in on one of these principles. Your group meets to discuss what each individual has learned through their study and experience in the topic. To help prepare the discussion, “Who you Are” guides you through a lesson that will expose you to the issues each topic contains. It will also take you through a study of relevant bible passages on that issue. Below is an outline of the lessons. The first three sections will be completed by the individual members before the group meets. The final two sections will then be completed as a group together... drawing on the insights from the first three.

📖 Previewing the Issue

In this section you will get an overview of the issue at hand. The content of this segment will range from stories to statistics... from narratives to discourse. It will help set up the topic and whet your appetite for the study ahead.

📖 Probing the Scriptures

In our study of the different character qualities, we want to turn to the Bible for guidance. Written over the span of 1500 years, by over 40 different authors, the Bible speaks to almost every issue of life. It speaks of the earthly and the heavenly with equal ease and accuracy. We will benefit by going to so great a source in our study of character. “Who You Are” has chosen to use “The Message” as its translation. Unless noted otherwise, all quotations of scripture will come from this version.

📖 Perusing other Pages

This segment contains articles and insights from different writers on the topic your group is focusing on. Sometimes entertaining, sometimes informative... these articles will serve to further enhance your understanding of the subject. This will be the last section you do before your group meets.

📖 Processing Together

Probably the greatest gains in the study of character will come when we are processing the truths we learn together in community. This can be the most treasured time of your week, as you seek to learn and grow from one another’s insights and experiences

Introduction

☐ Putting into Practice

It would be a tragedy if we spent all this time studying character and didn't let it effect how we lived our lives. The final thing that your group will do is to take what you have learned in your study and apply it to your life today. This is a critical step, and has the potential to be life changing. Take time as a group to work through this... developing action strategies based upon your study of the different traits.

Final Thoughts

It is our desire that you have the best semester you can, and so there are several ground rules that we encourage you to go by...

☐ Relationships!!!

Enjoy the group and have fun. This is not a lecture series; this is not a time for you to hear a leader tell you about character. It is a member participation format. So much will depend upon you. Everyone is given the right to their own opinion and "dumb questions" are respected. Dominating the discussion is discouraged. Your group leader will help you make new friends, learn about character and grow in your relationship with God.

☐ Confidentiality and Discretion

You and the members of your group will share personal experiences as a part of this time together. Rule #1 is that what's shared in the group, stays in the group!

☐ The Empty Chair

The group stays open to new people. When the group grows beyond the 12 - 16 range, it sensitively prepares to birth another group and/or spin-off a leadership team. This is absolutely necessary for the growth of individuals and the group.

☐ Support

Permission is given to call upon each other in time of need — even in the middle of the night.

Enjoy...