



TALK IT OVER

Anchor in Identity

Live Sent - Week 1

Pastor Andy Wood

August 8-9, 2026

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

Genesis 1:27-28 (NIV), John 20:21 (NIV84), Luke 4:18-21 (NIV84), Mark 1:14-15 (NIV), Luke 17:21 (NIV), 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT), 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT), 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV), 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV), Mark 3:13-15 (NIV84), Matthew 28:18-19 (NIV84), Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Questions

1. "God made you for more" is a powerful message of purpose! Read Genesis 1:27-28 aloud in your group. Describe the "Anchor in Identity" God gave mankind in verse 27. In verse 28, in what ways did God call us to "Live>Sent"? How do God's identity and call enable us to make a fresh start—regardless of where we may be now? How do they help us live a "more" life?
2. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah in Luke 4:18-21 (NIV84), "*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*" Then in John 20:21 (NIV84) after his resurrection, Jesus said to the disciples, "*Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you!*" In John 20:21, how does Jesus compare the basis upon which he was sent—with the basis upon which we "Live Sent"? Discuss how we share in Isaiah's prophecy of the coming Messiah's anointing because we have an "Anchor in Christ's Identity."
3. The Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV), "*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*" Discuss

what Paul means when he says that “*Christ’s love compels us*”? How should Christ’s death on our behalf affect the way we no longer live for ourselves but for God?

4. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17–21 (NIV), “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*” In verse 17 (the first verse above), what does being a “new creation” mean with regard to how we can “Live Sent”? In verse 21 (the last verse above), how does being “in him” (i.e., in Christ) give us “the righteousness of God”—an eternal anchor in Christ’s identity!? How does the passage reveal the nature of God as a reconciler—and explain the “message of reconciliation” he has “committed to us”? Discuss how the recognition that we are “Christ’s ambassadors” changes the way we interact with the people in our community and world.
5. Mark 3:13–15 (NIV84) says, “*Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.*” Describe how Jesus designated the twelve to be apostles, and how he sent them out with his authority. Discuss what it means to be called—and to “Live Sent”—by Jesus!
6. In Matthew 28:18–19 (NIV84), Jesus said, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.*” In Acts 1:8 (NIV), Jesus said, “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*” According to the passages, how do the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work together to make disciples? In what ways does Acts 1:8 reveal the nature of the Holy Spirit’s empowerment to be Christ’s witnesses? Discuss how God’s authority and power work together to send his disciples “to the ends of the earth.” What steps can you take to be more actively involved in making disciples and being a witness for God?
7. Mark 1:14–15 (NIV) says, “*Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’*” The Greek word “euangelion” literally means “Good News!” It was often used to refer to the proclamation of a victory! Our testimony is: “Jesus changed my life, he can change yours too. Jesus set me free, he can set you free too. Jesus healed me, he can heal you too!” How have the testimonies of others helped you? God can use your testimony to reach others with the Good News, too! What steps will you take this week—acting in Jesus’ power and authority—to “Live Sent” (praying, witnessing, blessing, serving)? God has given you an unshakeable “Anchor in Identity” in Christ! Pray this simple prayer: “Use me, God!”

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email JasonW@saddleback.com.

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

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