



MARKED

BIBLE STUDY



B I B L E S T U D Y

The Bible says that when you believed, God MARKED you with His promised Holy Spirit. It also says that you've been MARKED by Him from the beginning of time. He formed you in your mother's womb. He designed the universe so that you would be here at this exact time and place. He has a race MARKED out for you.

But the prince of this fallen world has tried to leave his own mark on you. He's attempted to mark you with lies, insecurity and unbelief in an effort to destroy your identity in Christ. He's on a mission to kill any hope you have of a future.

This 12-week course will help you discover what marks you; both your uniqueness and your weaknesses. You will learn to defend your identity as a believer while you glean perspective from the stories of Biblical characters who—like you—were MARKED by God. Embrace your distinctive purpose and God's ultimate plan for you, and become equipped to make your mark on this world!

DEFINITION**TRUTH****/TRŌTH/**

That which is true or in accordance with fact or reality.

SCRIPTURE

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 8:32 "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

BIG IDEA

The narrative of our lives is riddled with opinions and false pictures of who we are. We define ourselves by titles like "mother," "artist," or "teacher." We attach labels like "short," "wrinkled," or "overweight" to the image we see in the mirror. Maybe we've been assigned a diagnosis or ailment such as "insomniac," "diabetic," or "depressed." But these facts are not always congruent to the narrative of truth that God has spoken over us. So how do we differentiate between the two? In order to be Christians who are marked by truth, we have to go back to the origins of the lies we've allowed to take root in our lives. We have to expose any labels that define us which are contrary to God's truth and divine design. We must learn to reject the falsehoods of our circumstances and replace them with truth. THE Truth. A truth that has stood the test of time; a truth that is a person who will transform and set you free. That truth is found in the pages of the greatest book ever written: The Bible. It is the living and active Word of God's truth.

Let's examine the life of David. The facts of his circumstances were clear: David was the last born in a long line of strong, capable, talented men; he was neglected. David was left in the field when the prophet Samuel called for all the sons of Jesse; he was rejected. But the truth was that God had chosen David as king. After David was anointed, he went back to being a shepherd. He later got promoted to messenger, defeated a giant and saved the army, was then chosen as the king's cup bearer and eventually became a fugitive. All these labels were facts about David's circumstances. But the truth was that he was the chosen and anointed King of Israel. Even though the world marked David as "no good," God saw him, called him out of obscurity, and marked him as king.

CONVERSATION

Let's dig deeper. Write down those lies and labels that you've believed for all your life. What is the truth of who God says you are? What scriptures can you find that reinforce that truth? Allow God's Living Word to transform your mind so that you can believe in yourself the way God believes in you.

1. What facts, labels and lies have you allowed to define you? List all of them.

2. Can you identify the origins of each label either spoken over you or received by you? Write down your ideas.

3. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of who you really are by studying the Word of God. Which scriptures speak truth to your heart? Dive into the word and write down at least 10 scripture references and commit to studying them.

TAKE AWAY

It is time to change the way you think God thinks about you.

1. Identify the lies.
2. Reveal the truth.
3. Dive into the Word.

God wants to remind you of who He's called you to be. No matter what lies and labels have been spoken over you, regardless of the facts of your circumstances, you can find freedom by choosing to break out of those old patterns and mindsets and embracing the narrative of truth. Jesus is the Word that became flesh; he is the living Word and truth bearer.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)
