

In your years growing up, what kinds of things did you draw your identity from? How has that changed since you have come to college? [or since the last major transition in your life?]

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Katie mentioned that before coming to know Jesus, she put her hope in everything except God leading to sadness, discomfort, and anxiety.

- Before coming to know Jesus, what kinds of things did you put your hope in? (or what kinds of things do you see other people putting their hope in?) What were the results in your life? (or their life?)
- According to this passage, what does God do to change our identity?

Katie mentioned the prodigal son story, how despite his rebellion the Father readily accepted the son back into the family and threw a party for him.

- How would it change your outlook about life if you really believed that God loves you in the same way and that he wants to throw you a party because of who you are in Jesus?

Consider the reality that you are someone who reflects God's image, that you are his representative on earth, that you are set apart for works that make an eternal impact.

- How would it change you if you fully embraced this as being true of you? How would it change your actions, your doubts, your struggles, your relationships, etc.?

Read Colossians 3:1-17

- Why are we tempted to live according to the earthly qualities listed in verses 5-9?
- From verses 12-17, list the qualities we will enjoy when we put on our new identity in him. How do these differ from the earthly qualities of the previous list?
- Katie talked about how replacing the clothing of our old self with the new clothes of our identity in Jesus is a process. How have you experienced frustration in that transforming process? How does it change your outlook to know that God fully loves you at every step in that process?
- According to this passage, how are our relationships with each other important in living out this new identity?

Pray together, praising the Lord for the new identity he has given you and asking him to help you experience the fullness of his love and to love each other as a reflection of your identity in him.

