

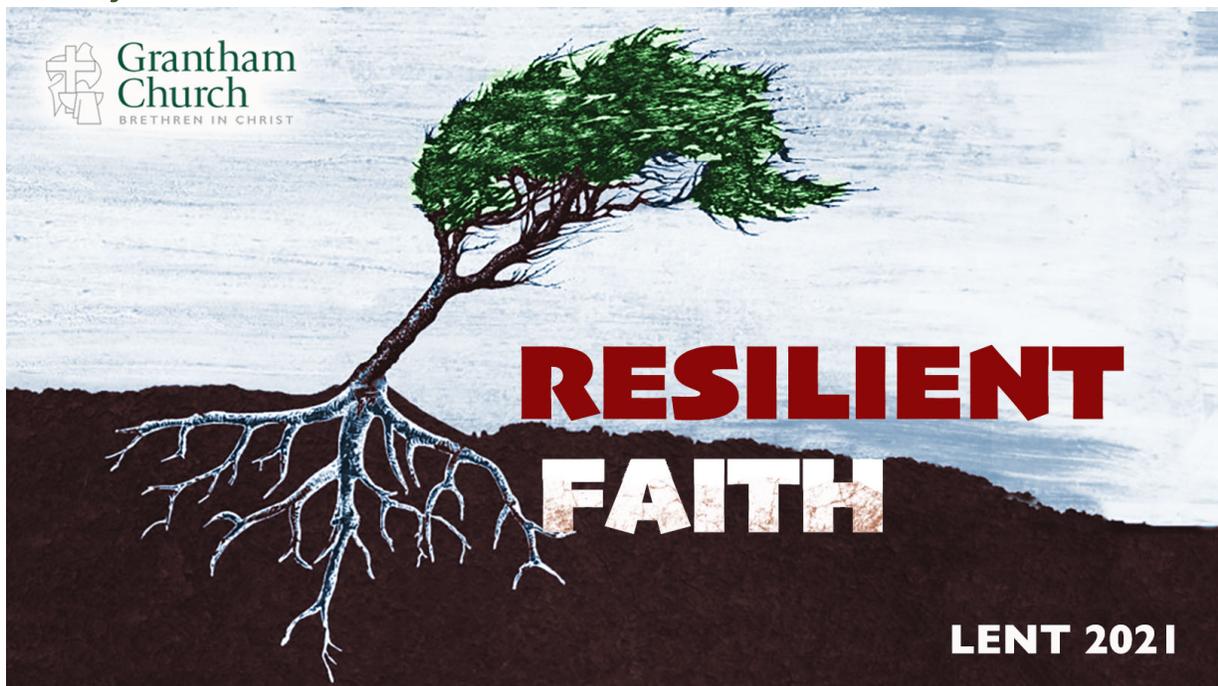
Resilient Faith (4 of 6) Small Group Discussion Questions

PUBLIC WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship in-person with restrictions or online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning via our Grantham Church YouTube Channel. For more information, please go to the [Grantham Church Live](#) page at our website.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, March 14th 2021



Sermon Title: Know Who You Are

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-13; Romans 8:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:16-17; Galatians 2:20

Sermon Focus: Before Jesus goes into the wilderness, he hears words of affirmation from God the Father: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." As we see with Jesus, knowing who you are enables us to overcome trials and opposition. Because it's in the wilderness where our identity is challenged the most. Listen as Pastor David reminds us who we are in Christ and how we can root our identity in him.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began by talking about how important our identity is to human flourishing. He used the movie *Bourne Identity* to make his point. How much of our own lives is driven by the question: "Who am I?" Do you resonate with this? Also, how have you seen the world attempt to answer this question for you? And how have you noticed the world's answers contradict what the Bible says?
2. Read Mark 1:9-13 together. Before Jesus goes into the wilderness, he hears words of affirmation from God the Father: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." As we see with Jesus, knowing who you are enables us to overcome trials and opposition. Because it's in the wilderness where our identity is challenged the most. How have you experienced this to be true? Also, what has God been saying to you about your identity during the pandemic?
3. Based on your own understanding, does your view of yourself reflect what the Bible says? If not, what needs to change? What needs to be healed?
4. It's important that we see the bigger biblical and theological picture of what the Bible says about who we are and what Christ does for us:
 - The first humans sinned and experienced guilt, shame, emptiness, and enmity between God and others; we share in this problem today
 - We are made in God's image but broken and not as we should be—meaning that not everything is as God intends with us and the world
 - Therefore, we are all born into "flesh" (often called "sinful nature") and a world that has been impacted by the Fall/great rebellion
 - God sent Jesus Christ to free us from the flesh and the Fall by giving us a new identity (saint, not sinner)—e.g., see Romans 8:1-17.

In many ways, this captures what the "gospel" is all about. Which aspects of this narrative do you think American society has the most difficulty with today?

5. Pastor David said that we can root our identity in Christ by doing the following:
 1. Meditating on the God revealed in Jesus
 2. Practicing sabbath (rhythms of work & rest)
 3. Allowing the wilderness to (re)shape you

Talk about each of these together. What do these look like for you? How might God be calling you to grow in each of these areas?