

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

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We said that one reason could be that maybe we don't fully understand exactly who God created us to be and who we are in Christ Jesus.

We looked back at **Genesis 1** to be reminded how God created us in His image and at **Psalms 139** to see how David described himself as who God created him to be before he was even born.

We then said that maybe we do understand who we are but we're just impatient or don't understand how we're ever going to get to the abundant life God has for us by just being who we are at the moment.

We looked at the story of Joseph in **Genesis 37-50** to see how he kept his faith in God and in who God created him to be despite his current circumstances, no matter how bad it seemed, and how God was able to ultimately use the wickedness of the world for good in Joseph's life, his family, and in the world.

We said that one of the biggest reasons we may try to be someone other than who God created us to be is because we often compare ourselves to others and who they are or to who the world tells us we "should" be. (the grass is always greener...) We have our own gifts/talents for our own purpose just as others may have different gifts/talents for their own purpose. There are nearly 8 Billion people in the world and each and every one of us was created to be unique with our own gifts/talents and purpose.

We often try so hard to be somebody that we're not that we spend our whole lives suffering from stress and sadness or loss of hope and even depression. Instead of being great at who we were created to be we fail miserably at trying to be somebody else.

We looked at the story of David and Goliath in **1 Samuel 17** and saw that even though King Saul (the world) tried to get David to wear his own armor, to be a warrior, David knew he would only succeed with God and in being who God created him to be as he turned down King Saul's offer.

Lastly, we looked at the story of Gideon in **Judges 6-8** to see that sometimes, rather than wearing a mask to try to be somebody else, we hide our true selves behind a mask of fear or insecurity of who we truly are. While Gideon was in hiding, God saw Gideon as the "**Mighty Warrior**" that he was created to be and He finally convinced Gideon to be who he was and who God needed him to be.

We said that when we read our Bibles, we can often identify people either wearing a mask to hide their true identity or refusing to be anything other than who God created them to be.

So, what do we do about it?

First, as always, we pray. Talk with God about who He created you to be and be confident in who that is.

Next, recognize that you're wearing a mask, identify what that mask is, and determine why you are wearing it.

Next, look at what dreams/visions God has put on your heart, what you're really good at, what you are passionate about, and most importantly, what brings you peace in your heart.

Finally, take off the mask and be the real you. Be the you that God created you to be and live the abundant life that God created for you to live.

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\$25 MARCH 24TH-25TH

FLOODS CAME.
WINDS BLEW.
RAIN FELL.

THE HOUSE
DID NOT FALL.

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The graphic features a stylized house with a star on its roof, a QR code, and a circular logo with the text 'FIRM FOUNDATION'. The background includes rain clouds and spirals.

1 Youth: Coffee Q&A With Michelle
Grades 7-12

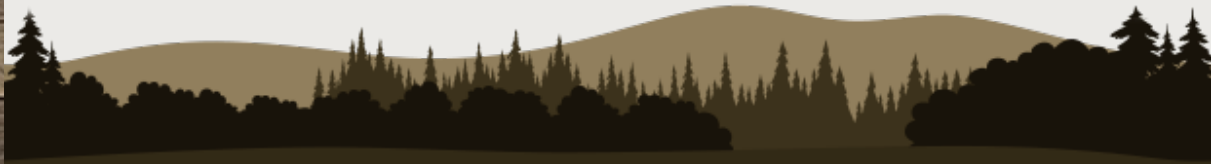
WHO? WHY? HOW? WHAT? WHERE?

Sundays After 1st Service

The graphic shows five stylized human figures standing in a line, with question marks above them containing the words WHO?, WHY?, HOW?, WHAT?, and WHERE?.

Coffee Q&A with Michelle
after 1st service **Sunday!**

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, after 1st service, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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