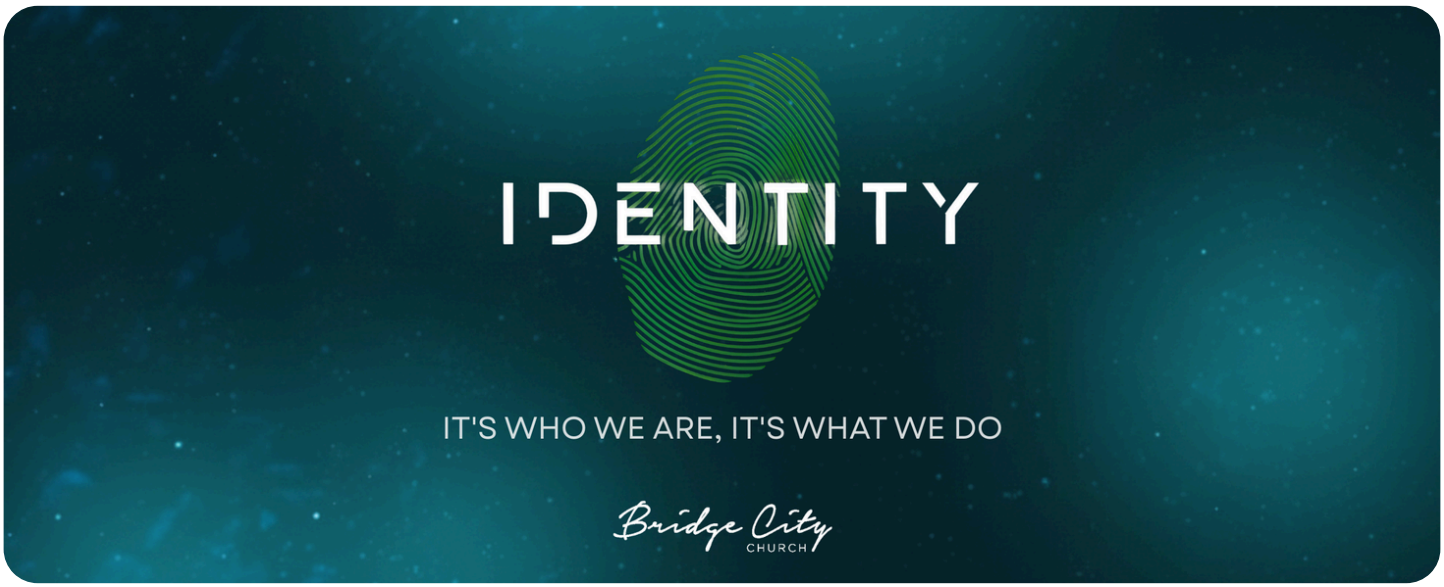


Part 2: We Seek God's Presence First ***October 18, 2026***

CONVERSATION GUIDE

SMALL GROUPS

Last week, in our ***Identity*** series, we talked about the importance of moving forward into what God has prepared for us. But as we take those steps, we need to remember something essential: it's not just about where we're going, but who we're walking with. As followers of Jesus and as a church, our priority cannot simply be doing more things for God, but cultivating a deep relationship with Him. This week, we'll discover why His presence must be the starting point for everything we are and everything we do.

In ***Exodus 33***, Moses recognizes that he cannot lead the people of Israel without God's presence. Although God had promised them a land, Moses understood that getting there would be meaningless if God wasn't going with them. His response reveals a fundamental priority: God's presence is worth more than any accomplishment. This same truth challenges us today. We may have plans, responsibilities, and good intentions, but our identity as followers of Jesus grows stronger as we remain in Him and learn to depend on His guidance.

> **Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.**
>
> **Exodus 33:12, 14-15 (NIV)**

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does Moses's response teach us about what should truly take priority in our relationship with God?

2. In ***John 15:4–5***, Jesus compares our relationship with Him to the connection between a vine and its branches. What does it mean to you to remain in Jesus? Have you experienced the difference between depending on Him and relying solely on your own strength?
3. What tends to take the place of His presence in our priorities, and what do we need to do to change that?

We want to be a church that stays in Jesus, loves His presence, and lets everything we do flow out of our relationship with Him.

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

How do we remain in Jesus during the week?

1. **Talk with Jesus every day.** Set aside five minutes each day to talk with Him honestly, sharing your concerns, expressing gratitude, and bringing before Him whatever you need to place in His hands.
2. **Open His Word because you want to know Him.** Read a short passage from the Gospels each day and ask yourself: What does this reveal to me about Jesus and His character?
3. **Walk as a true disciple.** Identify one teaching of Jesus that you already know and choose one specific way to put it into practice this week.

PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, thank You for inviting us to remain in You, not just to do things for You. We recognize that our busy schedules often push aside what matters most. Help us enjoy Your presence, hear Your voice, and depend on You more. May our decisions this week reflect a relationship with You that continues to grow deeper. Amen."

TIPS

- **Seeking His presence first is a priority, not just another activity.** It is reflected in our motivations, what we value, and our willingness to listen before we act.
- **Don't get discouraged if you struggle to stay focused this week.** Each new day is an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus without guilt or pressure.
- **Remember that your identity is not defined by how much you do for God.** Maybe you are tired, and you need to remember that Jesus is not only inviting you to work for Him. He is inviting you to remain in Him.

