

# Why Your Identity Matters

Key Bible Text - Ephesians 6:11, 16

**“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil... hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.”**

## **The Coat of Arms**

- In ancient Europe families or people from the same region would have a coat of arms on their shields
- These coats of arms were an identity marker, showing pictures and words that defined the family or group
- Defining traits, such as “bravery,” “peace,” “virtue,” or “royalty” were featured on the shield

## **The Shield of Faith**

- Stops Satan’s attacks on your life
- Reminds us that we are in a battle and in an army (we are not alone in the fight)
- Helps us to stand firm in our identity in Christ

## **Identity: What defines you?**

- Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I’m an alcoholic
- You don’t know where I’ve been... (shame)
- I’m just a screw-up (failure, disappointment)

## **In Christ: Living as a new creation**

- You are: a friend, lovely, free, part of a body, accepted.
- You have: value, purpose, spiritual gifts, a mission.
- You can walk in: peace, security, boldness, joy, safety.

## **Questions:**

- Take time to draw or write words on your coat of arms. Share with the group.
- What words have defined you in the past (before you knew Jesus)?
- How can we use the shield of faith in practical, everyday life to stop Satan’s attacks?

