

# shift

## Shift: Part 4

### Small Group Questions: Shift in Thinking

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#### Read

Matthew 3:13–17; John 1:12 and 3:16; 1 John 3:16, 4:15–19 and 13:34; Romans 5:8 and 8:14–17; Galatians 4:4–7; and Zephaniah 3:17; Proverbs 24:16; and Hebrews 10:38

#### Reflect

In Matthew 3:13–17, Jesus goes to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. As soon as Jesus comes up out of the water, heaven opens and the Spirit of God descends like a dove, saying “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” How have words spoken over you had an impact on the person you’ve become?

Pastor Josh Walters highlights three small truths for a big year:

1. I am a child of God.
  - a. Remembering that I am a child of God gives me confidence for today.
    - i. Do you truly believe yourself to be a child of God? Explain.
    - ii. What words would you use to describe yourself, your identity?
      1. Has someone ever called you something that didn’t feel like you? How did it affect you? What titles *do* you like, and why?
    - iii. Recall a moment when you lacked confidence that God heard you or was with you.
    - iv. How might owning that you are a joint heir, fully adopted into God’s family, help you take your next step with confidence?
      1. What privileges as a child of God are you failing to use?
2. I am loved by God.
  - a. Knowing I’m loved by God allows me to love others.
    - i. What do you need to make you feel loved—by God and by others?
    - ii. What is the difference between living *for* love and living *from* love?
    - iii. In what areas might you be living *for* love right now?
3. I am pleasing to God.
  - a. Believing I am pleasing to God helps me to rise again.
    - i. When you think of reasons why God may be pleased with you, how based are they on past performance?
    - ii. Would you say that God’s love for you doesn’t make sense? What is God’s one prerequisite?
    - iii. How are you letting your past affect how you think God sees you? What thoughts need to shift?
    - iv. What do you sense God wants to speak over you?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?