



# A NEW THING

## Talk summary:

### **God prepares His people by giving them a new identity in Christ**

1. We may know God loves the world (John 3:16) but do we know he loves us personally?
  - a. In Jesus coming to die for our sins and rising again to set us free He wasn't just doing it generically for the whole world, but so that we could all experience the personal love of God. We may have experienced rejection, failure or guilt in our lives that feel like a barrier to God's love. But God wants us to turn to him to receive his grace, forgiveness and mercy by the power of His Spirit so we can walk in His love every day of our lives.
2. God wants to break our hearts of stone to hear His words of love over us (Ezekiel 36:26 & Luke 3:22)
  - a. We are to take our baptism seriously – it means that we have been given a new identity by the power of God's Spirit, that the old has gone and the new has come. Whenever we mess up we can be forgiven and restored through the power of the cross to continue to live out of our baptism identity. We don't deserve it, but through this when God looks at us He sees His son and that's how we can now experience a personal love from the Father.
3. God wants us to live out of that place of love and affirmation so we can shine God's love to the whole world (Romans 8:28-29)
  - a. One of the most important things for us to know as God's people is that because of our new identity in Christ - we're loved beyond measure and God is pleased with us. Nothing can separate us from this (but we need to believe it!). We are new creations (Galatians 6:15) and that's the place we are called to live out of as we overflow with that reality to those around us.

## Questions:

### **Conversation Starter**

*Do we know we are truly loved by God? Do we believe that what God says over Jesus at his baptism 'you are my beloved, with you I am well pleased' he also says over us? What might be our barriers to believing/walking this out? How often do we intentionally think about our baptism as being the moment we took on our new identity as new creations? Are there other more significant moments for us?*

**What might God be saying to me about this theme/situation?**

**What have I learnt that I want to hold on to?**

**How am I going to put it into practice?**