

THE
SASSY
CLUB

IDENTITY

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INTRODUCTION

Sassy Mama's,

Welcome and we are so thrilled you are here!

This is for every woman who feels like she doesn't have room to stand, for every woman who beats to her own drum, for every woman who has felt like she is not enough... this is for every Hot Sassy Mama.

Let's start with a few ground rules, we do not want this to replace your daily Bible study, but rather we hope this brings you into a deeper rooted relationship with Jesus Christ and encourages you to rest in the promises of who He made you to be. You are His beloved, sassy daughter and you have been made with a unique purpose to walk in the light of the identity He has given you.

We want to encourage you to find a sassy sister or two (or ten, the more the merrier) to walk through this with. If you don't know where to find a sassy sister or ten, check [here](#) (link to localization tab) they are dying to meet you! We want to encourage you to grab a coffee, plan a Bible study, or walk through this with a sister who is there to support you and come along side you on this journey.

Now let's think, what would it look like if we fully explored and understood our identity in Jesus? If we were fully confident in the way our Father pursues us daily, ready to conquer everything put in front of us. What would our community look like if we love and pursue friendships without expecting anything in return, but love and give freely because Jesus loves us first? Life can get hard and confusing and we want to walk through this together to learn more about what it looks like to pursue Jesus individually and in community!

Thinking a little broader, our society is in desperate need of space. We constantly seek solutions to create space & find freedoms, but the solution is not here, you cannot create space or find those freedoms without Jesus. He gives up space, and fills it with exactly what we need. Sisters, take this leap with me into deeper intimacy with Jesus so that we will not be afraid to dig deeper and get dirty where God has placed us.

Jesus in His kindness, confronts our fears. He brings life-giving water that fills us up and we hope this study shows you His face & his heart for you.

May you Sassy Mama's hear love and truth through these passages of Scripture and thoughts,

With love,
The Sassy Club

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hi friend,
my name is Shea Bryant and I am pumped you are reading this! I live in Dallas, Texas, I am a wifey to my favorite human, Holden and we are very proud parents to our goldendoodle pup, Oakley! I am extremely blessed to be the Community Director for The Sassy Club! It never feels like work, as it combines my passion for women, with my love for Jesus and seeing His name glorified through community. I am giddy about realness, community and depth, which is why I am ecstatic about The Sassy Club!

My intentions of writing this were to open up to you a bit about what I have walked through and how the Lord has used different parts of my life to reveal more of who He is to me. I could lie and tell you it was easy to write this, but it honestly wasn't. It brought me back to parts of my life that were painful and hard. But even through writing this and reflecting on what the Lord has taught me, time and time again, the Lord continues to show me His grace and sovereignty in my life. I hope you give me a bit of grace and understanding as you walk through this and know that I am oh so broken and human. I hope you get to know the messy parts of me through this and can relate to them. I hope you see the brokenness and sinfulness that I have walked through. I hope you see that through all of it, the Lord was loving and kind regardless of my shortcomings and circumstances. I hope that you, too can find this as a place to show up as you are, and see that the Lord loves you and desires to sit with you. So, I want to encourage you to get a cup of coffee, tea, or whatever you drink in the morning, find a quiet space, and dive into Scripture with us! We also want to encourage you to go through this at your own pace. The most important thing to us is not how fast or slow you go through this, but the quality of time you have with Jesus and having time to reflect on what the Lord is revealing to you.

I want to encourage you through every chapter to use these three steps.

Comprehension: this is where we analyze “what does this scripture tell us?”

Interpretation: this is where we figure out “what does this scripture mean?”

Application: this is where we ask “how should this scripture change me and what should I do in response?”

A couple of my favorite resources that I use to help me study the Word:

ESV Gospel Transformation Bible

The King in His Beauty - Thomas R. Schreiner

Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds - Jen Wilkin

SASSY MAMA'S

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

- Hebrews 4:16

“He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”

- Acts 28:30-31

the definition of sassy:

lively, bold, and full of spirit

Sassy Mama's this is our heartbeat, this is where we find our peace and our power, we find it through Christ and we find it in his perfect design for us to be Sassy Mamas. Now what does that mean? How can we be a Hot Sassy Mama who finds her identity in & through Christ?

This is the boldness we as Sassy Mama's are called to live out. We should desire this kind of boldness - to know Jesus in His fullness and to understand why we are called to share the Gospel. Let's be bold to speak confidently about who Jesus is and who He says we are in Him. Let's walk in light of our identity He has given us. Let's live our lives through the gift of His Spirit. Let's step out in faith for His glory.

How can we be a
Hot Sassy Mama
who finds her
identity in &
through Christ?

God's sassy daughters,

In Christ,

You are His beloved (Romans 9:25)

You are His friend (John 15:15)

You are redeemed (Ephesians 1:7)

You are chosen (Ephesians 1:4)

You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

You are free (Galatians 5:1)

You are restored (1 Peter 5:10)

You are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13)

You are forgiven (Hebrews 10:17)

You are His Child (Ephesians 1:5)

You are His masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)

You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:13-14)

You are a child of light and not darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5)

Our desire is that we would continue to become more and more like Jesus: loving, faithful, patient, holy, kind, wise and accepting. Let's run to Him. He is present in every moment and circumstance.



GLASS
ALL
OVER
THE
FLOOR

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

—Genesis 1:26-27

Before I gave my life to Jesus and started pursuing a relationship with Him, insecurity and expectation crushed me. It had made a fool of me. I was a restless soul seeking a place to just lay my head from feeling like I wasn't enough. Looking back, I wasn't enough because I looked to my social status, reputation and achievements for my identity. I know I can't be the only one who has found emptiness in the journey to find identity, looking to fill it with just about anything – a career, relationships, anything this world will offer me. After years of “filling” my life with things that only left me feeling more empty, I learned that I will never find the true rest I am seeking, outside of my identity in Jesus.

After a pretty difficult season of loneliness and feeling hopeless about my future, I hit a breaking point. I was in the kitchen of my parents house and thought I would give my feelings a piece of their mind. I took my moms glass pitcher (side note: it's never a good idea to break your mom's stuff, so next time, I will break something of my own) and threw it on the hardwood floor, as if it was the one to blame. I threw it hard and by hard, I mean I left a little dent in the floor (sorry mom and dad)! In a quiet whisper (which is usually our method of communication) I heard the Lord say, “the way you released this glass pitcher to the floor and let go of it, you can do the same with everything you're feeling right now. The insecurity, hopelessness, and hurt, you can throw it to me and I will break every chain that is holding your heart back.” Okay... That was a huge in right in the pride. In that moment, the glass pitcher was what my life felt like. I felt broken and scattered all over the hardwood floor. The Lord again, whispering to my soul, “do you trust me enough to sweep up the broken pieces and put them back together?”

“No. No, I don't trust you” is what I wanted to say! You see, I was in control of my life. I was used to people letting me down time and time again, so I got to the point where I was the only person I fully relied on. Gosh, it was all about me, but the moment you think you have it all together and all under control is the moment you break. We are used to people walking away when things in life get messy. That's the thing about human messes, we weren't equipped with the right tools to clean them up. Sure, we can find someone else to help us sweep and swiffer the heck out of the hardwood floor, but at the end of the day, it will still feel dirty. No matter how many people, or how hard we personally sweep up our mess, the feelings that are attached to our mess, won't just go away. This is because we weren't created to clean things up within our own strength – or even someone else's strength. So, I said “sure, Lord. I trust you.” Even though my heart didn't fully believe it, I took a chance on Him. The little stubborn mess that I am was wrong. I could trust Him. Jesus met me. He met me in the rawness of all the spiritual cuts I had from the brokenness I felt. Jesus didn't push me away. He met me right in the midst of my chaos and showed me who I was. He became my shelter. My refuge. My lighthouse. He taught me that in Him, it's where a girl who grew up hating herself and feeling like she was never enough, can discover that she bears the image of a holy, loving, kind, and perfect Father. Can I get an AMEN?!

This is where we find our identity & our space. We have been created for the greatest purpose, to bear His image and to be a reflection of who He is. This means that we are eternal beings that have a purpose. No matter where you come from or what you do, you are worthy and have purpose because you are made in the image of

God. We are often tempted to use our dominion over other people to self-serve and control instead of stewarding our identity in Him, with love and obedience to walk in light of who God created us to be.

We were created in the image of God, not to be God. Even in our sinful nature, His image remains in us. Our decisions, actions, relationships, words and thoughts all matter. They all have significance for good or bad. Even in our sinful nature, there is a promise of goodness and perfection in our redemption through Jesus Christ. That one day we will bear His image perfectly, reflecting the honor and glory of Jesus forever.

Even though our identity is made in the image of God, we are often ashamed of it. We are afraid to be who we are, ashamed of what we look like, embarrassed by our quirks, uncomfortable and unsatisfied with many aspects of our lives. We are ashamed of our sin and brokenness. Afraid to acknowledge it and even bring it before God. Here's the thing, God in His perfect nature created a solution for this. Eve was content and happy with who she was until Satan convinced her that she was not enough – that she needed more than what God had given her. How crazy is it that we as women today, still struggle with the same sin struggles as Eve? That we struggle to find our worth and turn to everything but God?

Well the good news is Jesus came to take our shame. We no longer need to hide from God because Jesus gives us the opportunity for peace and freedom in Him. We never have to be insecure about all the lies the enemy and the world tells us – that we aren't enough, that we won't be successful, that we aren't beautiful, that we have to sit in what we believe about ourselves, that we can't let Him pick up the broken pieces of us all over the floor. No past, present or future sin keeps us from the goodness and freedom that is found in the Cross. The Cross saves us from the sin and death we deserve. It shows us forgiveness, it justifies us, making us righteous and acceptable before our Father. God gave us our identity as our link to Him. He gave it to us so that we would deeply be devoted to Him and rest in knowing that we are made in His image.

I hope that this is a safe place. A place where Jesus can meet us in our mess. A place to find Him as your shelter, refuge, and lighthouse. A place where you can expect that He is going to show up (because He does, I promise you). That this would be a place where you say “OMG me too!” That we as sassy sisters, can bond over our stories and how Jesus walks with us in every fear we have and reminds us of our true identity found in Him.

journal

scripture

- Genesis 5:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 15:49
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Ephesians 2:8-10 & 4:24

worship

- Body Mind & Soul by Phil Wickham
- Constant One by Steffany Gretzinger
- Who You Say I Am - Hillsong Worship
- Break Every Chain - Jesus Culture & Kristen Dimarco

prayer

- Ask the Lord that you would find your identity in Him and not in the things of this world.
- Ask the Lord to give you more confidence to trust in Him and His sovereignty.

What does it mean for you that you were made in the image of God?

What does it mean to live in light of your identity as His, rather than your circumstances?

If we were meant to be in relationship with God, how can you turn toward Him?

What is the "pitcher" in your life that you need to surrender to God?

Do you trust God to sweep up the pieces of your brokenness? Why or why not?

I want to encourage you to take time today to disconnect from work, social media, or any distraction that distances you from spending time with Him today. Soak yourself up in scripture and let him take control.

JOY IN OUR IDENTITY

“After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized (for John had not yet been put in prison). Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

—John 3:22-30

Jesus slowly, but surely taught me that finding joy in my identity comes when I stop trying to fill my life with things that can be so easily taken. In high school and college, I definitely didn't have the "glory years." I moved around more than I can count, had a relationship that quite literally ripped apart my whole world in the most painful way, and had a lot of medical issues. This has now resulted in the loss of never playing a sport again, and seven knee surgeries. Yes, I said seven! Like most women, the struggle of growing up hit (oof, and it is painful)!

The insecurity, fears, and expectations grew. I felt alone. I felt like I wasn't enough, and I broke under the pressure of filling my life with things that distracted me of the deep, cutting pain I felt underneath. My whole life I have gone into what I like to call "survival mode." It's where I numb, distract and run. No, not physically run (seven knee surgeries, remember?) The kind of running that put my hurt deep into the dark rather than letting it be in the light. The kind of running that left me broken and ashamed.

John's identity as "the Baptist" was no longer fitting to who he was about to be. If John had looked to this label as "John the Baptist" to find his identity or purpose, he would have been left broken and empty. But his response clearly shows that his identity was much bigger than himself, and the work he had been doing. His identity was found in Jesus.

John had the opportunity to choose his own label over Jesus and no one would have blamed him. We see that John's disciples come over to him and point out that baptizing is his thing. It is what he was known for. John could have explained that it had been his job to baptize. John could have even tried to rationalize that he was doing it for the Kingdom and for God's glory. Instead of having an identity-crisis of not knowing who he is without baptizing, he responds "I know who you are" (3:29). He could have begged Jesus to let him have this, but instead of defining himself within his label to Jesus, he responded with "less of me, more of you" (3:30). Instead of begging Jesus to take anything, but this, he responds with "all things belong to you" (3:31). John knew he wasn't supposed to be the light because he saw the light in Jesus.

John knew he was more than his label as "John the Baptist." He was John, a follower of Jesus Christ. That was the only thing he allowed to define him. Sometimes I forget that when Jesus increases, our joy increases: "Therefore this joy of mine is now complete" (3:29). John knows that this was God's plan. To gather a group of people, rise up, and then burn out. That was it. And as it unfolds, John's joy increases because all he needs is found in Jesus. John saw what was happening and loved every part of it: "Nobody leaves me and goes to Jesus unless it is given to him from heaven" (3:27). Less of him, and all of Jesus. John the Baptist would see Jesus increase in this moment of his followers turning toward the bridegroom and seeing himself decrease and say, my joy is now complete.

As hard as I tried, I could not be like John. When things that defined me were taken, I didn't shout "My joy is now complete!" It was a lot more like me taking out the boxing gloves and questioning what He was doing. Finding Jesus, looked a lot like Him getting his shovel out, and digging me out of the mess I put myself in. I had never known the power - the joy found in being exposed by the Lord. It wasn't easy at first, feeling vulnerable and seen. He showed me that a lot of my life, I had been sweeping all my problems into the corners of my soul that had way too many stop signs to count. He showed me that I had worn an identity that was stitched together by broken thoughts and circumstances, rather than finding it in Him.

He showed me as He was revealing more and more of who He was to me, that there was unimaginable joy in knowing Him. That there is joy in knowing my identity in Him. Because that can't ever be taken from me. It has left a longing in my heart every day of "less of me, more of You because my joy is complete in You." I would give myself over to follow Jesus again and again, because His joy is far greater and His presence is far sweeter than anything this world can offer.

Remember earlier when I mentioned Jesus had taken his shovel out to dig me out of the mess I made? Through that, He started to chip away the mask I put on daily for everyone else. He saw me. He saw through the thick skin I tried to have. He saw all the chips, cracks and burns and showed me how loved and desired I was by Him. Underneath all of the pain I had walked through, I learned He had been writing a story far more beautiful than anything I could've imagined. He revealed the dirt and pain because without it, I wouldn't know Him. I wouldn't know the beauty in being fully seen and fully known. To know that He sees every part of my being and calls me His beloved who is fearfully and wonderfully made.

Who was John the baptist?

scripture

- Genesis 5:1-2
- Colossians 1:9-10

worship

- Isn't He (This Jesus) - The Belonging Co
- You Carried Me - Will Reagan, United Pursuit
- Oh Lovely One - Vineyard Worship
- Known & Loved - Joel Ansett

prayer

- Ask that the Lord would reveal parts of your heart that you have hidden from Him, others, or even yourself that need healing.
- Ask that you would know Him more through the uncovering of your thoughts or circumstances.
- Ask that the Lord would use what you have walked through to show other people who He is.
- Ask that you would solely find your identity in Him and not in things of this world.

journal

What in your life can you loosen your control over?

What in your life are you hiding into the corners of your heart?

What are things you find your identity in?

How can you choose Jesus over yourself today?

HOPE IN THE LIVING WATER

“A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

—John 4:7-26

The Lord brings my back to this passage time and time again. This story about Jesus meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well, shows me so much truth about myself and about who Jesus is. One of the biggest lessons I have had to learn is that Jesus' love runs deeper than the wounds of my sins and my shortcomings. Jesus offers life giving water to every single one of us.

I don't know about you, but I tend to get caught up in trying to be the best that I can. Fixing every action and thought, but often neglecting my heart. Jesus showed up into my life when I was messy (oh I still am messy, but thank goodness for His grace). He shows up in a way only He can. My husband can very confidently confirm that I am indeed, a walking mess!

I have really bad anxiety. I am indecisive, but impulsive, at the same time. I am emotional, but bottle up my feelings and burst. I am irrational and stubborn. I'm sure you can relate to a couple of these things, too. I am many things that make me feel unwanted. I think the Lord continues to point me back to this passage because He is trying to teach me that no matter what, Jesus wants me and is going to take me as I am, every single time. Jesus took who no one else wanted - a Samaritan woman. Jesus met her where she was and offered himself, the living water. Jesus broke cultural and social barriers to show His disciples that discrimination wasn't going to hold him back, that nothing could. That the gospel doesn't push away from people, but pursues people. All people. You and me.

At Jacob's well, Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman whose life would be radically different after meeting Jesus. The Samaritan woman went to the well for something she desperately needed - water. Jesus was there and asked the woman for a drink of her water. Her response was full of questions as Jesus was culturally and socially breaking rules at this time. Traditionally, Jewish men were not to be seen talking with women, and Jesus is speaking to an adulterous woman. At this time, Jews did not have dealings with Samaritans, and Jesus is speaking with a Samaritan.

"I who speak to you am He." At this point, Jesus was not going around telling everybody who he was, but decided to tell this woman. Jesus is pursuing this conversation with the Samaritan woman. Jesus responded that if she knew who He was, that she would ask Him for water, since He alone provided the living water she needed. The woman confused (I would be too), as it seemed impossible that He could provide living water. This woman was seeking the satisfaction she longed for, her value and worth in what the world tried to offer her. The Samaritan woman moves from a perspective of disbelief to a perspective of "give me what you have." What this woman needed more than anything is to fully know Jesus. This is what we need more than anything. The biggest problem we face is our hopelessness - that we don't always recognize Jesus as our only hope. Jesus came to this woman the same way he comes to us, to lead us out of the dark and into the light. The Samaritan woman is a story of being so deep into our own righteousness that we can't see what real righteousness and grace looks like, until He meets us. And can give us living water that will fill us to the brim with hope.

I have tried every self-help book out there. I have tried diets, clothes and makeup. I have tried partying and finding hope in men. Everything this would had to offer me, left me feeling more empty and hopeless. I realized there is nothing this world can offer me that will bring me true peace and hope. But Jesus met me, just like he did

with the Samaritan woman. He crushed every expectation, barrier and lack of hope I had, and still have. I have learned it is only by Jesus' faithfulness on the cross, that I can have true hope that will never run dry.

I think Jesus hoped that we wouldn't just read about the Samaritan woman and know it as head knowledge, but that we would pick up on His teachings with heart knowledge, knowing it has the power to change us, and others. That we would see when we are transparent, we show people who Jesus is, in the purest and most real way. We show them His love and forgiveness for us through the brokenness of our very selves, our emotions and experiences. When we let people see us, see us in our unperfected way, we allow people to see Jesus at work in and through us. Jesus is willing to pour out of us. When I am filled with His Spirit and when he pours out of me, I will never be empty and I won't run dry. It doesn't matter if you have been following Jesus for one day, or thirty years. This is for the woman who has gone to church her whole life, and this is for the woman who has never gone to Church. This promise is for all because we are all thirsty and weary. We are all in desperate need for a Savior who stands at the well giving us the only thing we will ever need - living water that will never run dry on us.

We don't have to be thirsty. We don't have to feel empty. We can freely accept the gift of Jesus Christ, who is our living water that gives us hope and purpose. Would our hope in Jesus allow us to pour out to other people around us, so that they can thirst no more, and find hope in the living water that will never run dry.

scripture

- Hebrews 11:1
- Proverbs 13:12
- Romans 15:13

worship

- At the Well by Bethany Barnard
- Come to the River by Housefires
- Wild River by Phil Wickham
- Heroes by Amanda Cook
- Rise by Housefires

prayer

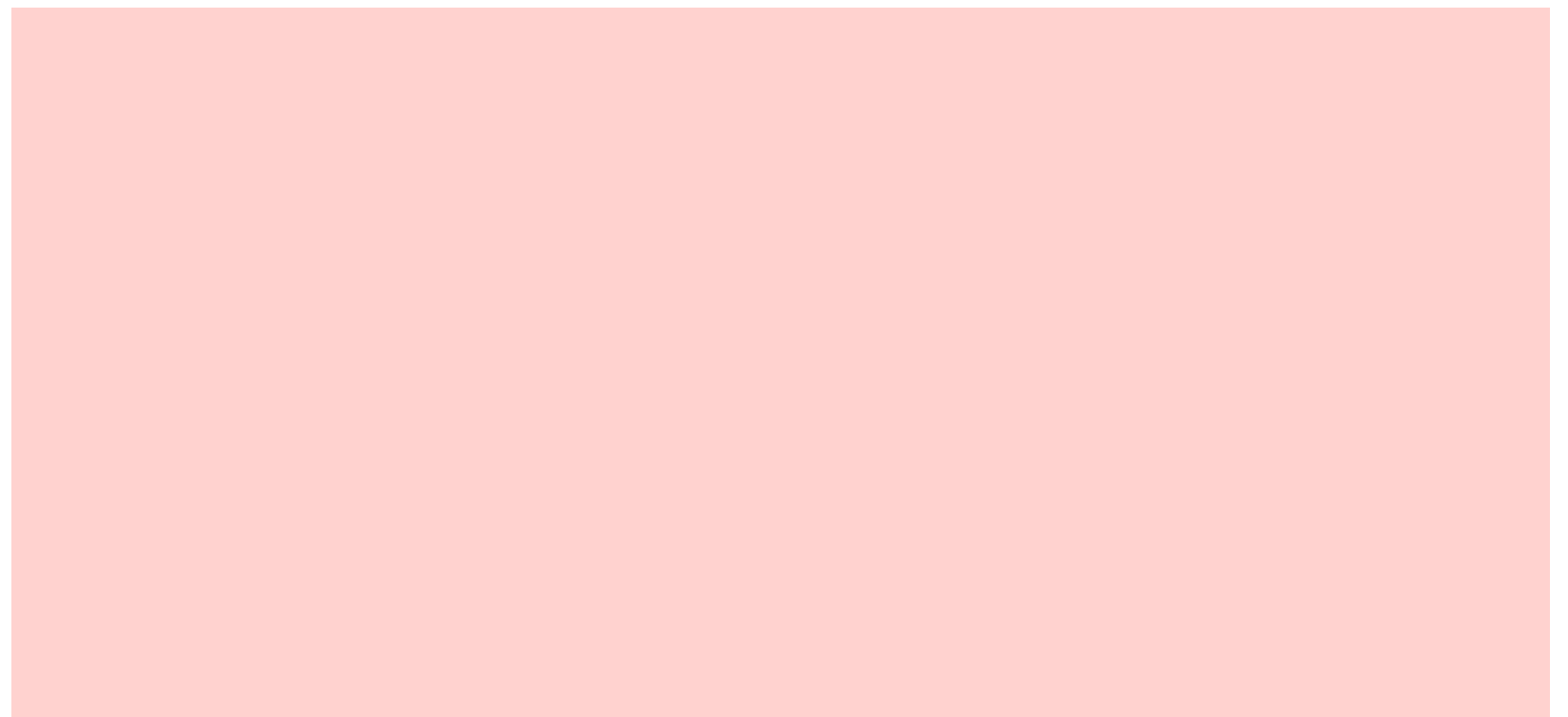
- Ask the Lord to reveal fear you have that is holding you back.
- Ask that the living water of Jesus would be enough for you.
- Ask that Jesus would continue to reveal more of who He is to you.

journal

Have you put your hope in something that has let you down?

How can you turn towards Jesus instead of what the world can offer you?

Do you believe that the living water of Jesus will sustain you? Why or why not?



BROKEN JARS USED FOR A PURPOSE

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

—2 Corinthians 4:7–18

It's hard not to read this passage of scripture and make it all about us. We sometimes think we can sculpt our own lives and live within our own strength. The truth is, the pressure of this world will crack us, or even break us. It's not the outer vessel we should focus on here, but the treasure that is inside of the jar of clay. The treasure of the most beautiful good news - the Gospel. It is through the cracks and brokenness of who we are that His light shines brightest. The world tells us to focus on the jar and not the glory of God in our weakness, but I walked through something that would tell me otherwise.

I packed everything I could into my little black suitcase because I knew I needed to get away, to find who I was. I sat on the airplane flying home to my parents feeling brokenness I couldn't compare to anything else. This wasn't supposed to happen - not to me. But there I was, broken up with the man I thought I would be with forever. Heartbroken, confused and lost. This was the day I had decided I had enough. I had enough of a man who was abusing the power of authority in my life, telling me who I should be, how I should feel, and what my future was going to look like. I had enough of someone else trying to be God in my life. I knew the moment I got off the plane, the moment of numbness would be over, and I would be shoved into a reality that I wasn't ready for: picking up pieces, moving on, and acknowledging the hurt I had experienced. My eyes filled with tears, and my heart broken, I couldn't imagine that someday, I would look back on that season of my life with affection and gratitude.

"This could be a good thing," is not what I wanted to hear after walking away from a relationship that felt that it took everything of me. That season of my life looked a lot like really ugly crying in mid conversation with someone, when I was reminded of what I was currently feeling. 4 am still awake and staring at my ceiling fan. Picking up my phone and putting it back down and picking it back up, over and over again. I felt pathetic. I felt defeated and lost for months.

The Lord revealed to me that this was an opportunity to be renewed. That the world was going to tell me that walking out of this relationship was going to scar me forever, that it was like a shadow constantly following me around. But the Lord reassured me not to lose heart, that the momentary affliction I was facing was going to prepare me for an eternal weight of glory beyond comparison. That even though I had been struck down, I was not destroyed. Because of Jesus, because of His goodness and grace. Over and over again, He told me I needed to accept what happened and allow Him to heal it. Acceptance of who I was, what happened. Acceptance of the dysfunction. Acceptance of the unknown and uncertainty, but most importantly, acceptance in knowing that He was sovereign over it all. That He allowed it for His good purpose.

My hope was found as the Lord piece by piece put my heart back together. It was sturdier, stronger and filled with the deepest love for Him for saving me. Saving me for something greater. Saving me for what is true and good. Saving me for a purpose. One of the most important things I learned was that Jesus caught every one of my tears in that season. Jesus met me where I was at, and took on every bit of pain with me that I felt.

Jesus has the power and strength to heal you from your hurt and pain. I have lived it. Jesus is transformational and does so through Scripture. I needed to allow the bro-

kenness to relate to people and allow the Holy Spirit in me to move and work. And so, I did. I acknowledged what I had walked through and then I allowed other people to see. To see the real me. The me that was really hurt, imperfect and broken. But more importantly, to see Jesus heal me and work through me.

We are not jars of clay that are unbreakable. We are weak and fragile, but He is strong. It is His power and goodness that holds us together. And yet, He gives us the privilege of holding His treasure in the midst of all the cracks and bruises we might have.

When we think about what it means to share the Gospel, we imagine someone who is courageous or has a lot of experience in ministry, but God gifts us His Spirit to share the Gospel not because of our qualifications or because we are good enough, but as a display of His grace. This should encourage us that when we are weak, it is a reason to lean on Him and Him alone to use us for His glory. We have all thought that we are too average, or even undistinguished. That we can't do anything significant. No one is too weak, too shy, too lost, too inarticulate, or too broken to do what God created us to do. We are not empowered by our own power, but by the power of God working in and through us, even in our brokenness.

Give yourself a minute. Weep, eat ice cream, binge watch Netflix and give yourself time to process. But then pick yourself up, use the courage the Holy Spirit gives you to do what you have always dreamed of. This is your time. Go for it, girl! You got it!

No matter what you have walked through, or what you are currently walking through, you have a story to share. That story is Jesus and who He says we are as His. We have opportunities every day to show that in the midst of our circumstances, that He is kind, merciful and strong in every fear we have. We worship a God who suffered the most painful death, but resurrected in the most victorious manner and now has a life of eternal glory. In our afflictions, we have the privilege to glorify Jesus in the path He set before us.

We can depend on Jesus. We can go to Him, we can talk to Him and we can receive the fullness of life in Him, even in our deepest pain and suffering.

scripture

- Matthew 28:20
- Psalm 56:8
- Isaiah 43:18-19
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

worship

- Save Me - Steffany Gretzinger
- Only Takes a Moment - Cory Asbury
- Defender - Rita Springer
- Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace) - Hillsong Worship
- Spirit Move - Kalley Heiligenthal

prayer

- Ask the Lord to reveal fear you have that is holding you back.
- Ask that the living water of Jesus would be enough for you.
- Ask that Jesus would continue to reveal more of who He is to you.

journal

In this passage of Scripture, Paul is communicating the message of weakness and power. How can you let God use your weakness to show His power?

How can you use pain and hardships you have walked through to be an encouragement and example for someone else?

What steps can you take when you feel overwhelmed by your past, present, or future struggles?

How can you keep an eternal perspective that the troubles of this world are "light and momentary" when compared to eternity?

"This means that the decaying of his body was not meaningless. The pain and pressure and frustration and affliction were not happening in vain. They were not vanishing into a black hole of pointless suffering. Instead, this affliction was producing for Paul an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison. The unseen thing that Paul looked at to renew his inner man was the immense weight of glory that was being prepared for him not just after, but through and by, the wasting away of his body... When he is hurting, he fixes his eyes not on how heavy the hurt is, but on how heavy the glory will be because of the hurt." - John Piper

BE FEAR LESS

Sassy Mama's, remember this:

the shame we feel is covered in the blood of our perfect Savior. Jesus took on the sin of the whole world to the grave with Him - including ours. He defeated death so that we can stand in front of the Father unashamed and without blemish.

The most powerful
a woman can be is
when she lives in
the fullness of her
identity found only
in Jesus Christ

Instead of living in the midst of brokenness on our own, what if we gathered with other women in The Sassy Club? Instead of dwelling in our loneliness, what if we gathered to support the needs of other #sassymamas? What if we stopped gossiping and walked through life together in encouragement and accountability? What if we made prayer a priority and believe it has the power to cover our community? What if we walked hand in hand with our sassy sisters, and pursued Jesus deeper?

worship

- Calvary's Shadow - Rivervalley Worship
- Perfect One - Payton Keller
- Spirit Break Out - Kim Walker-Smith

If you have any questions whether they are about this document, the Bible, or just life, we would love for you to submit them to us at community@thesassyclub.co so we can spend some time answering them for you!

If you have any prayer requests, we would love to be in prayer with you! You can send them to community@thesassyclub.co or post them on our prayer page.

TSC