SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE

LETTERS TO MY YOUNGER SELF | DEAR YOUNG CHAD
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CONNECTION

- What was your favorite grade or year growing up? What made it memorable?

MESSAGE RECAP

This weekend, we began *Letters to My Younger Self* by reflecting on the lessons we wish we'd understood earlier in life. We explored the struggle between what we believe and how we live, and how our failures can shape the way we see ourselves and even the way we see God. Romans 7 reminds us that this struggle is real, but our hope isn't found in trying harder or getting everything right. It's found in Jesus. Through Him, we are forgiven, loved, and given a new identity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could go back and tell your younger self one thing you know today, what would it be? What experience helped you learn that lesson?
2. Growing up, we often form ideas about who God is and how He sees us. Some are helpful; others may not reflect His character.
    - Have you ever believed you needed to clean up your life before you could come to God? What led you to believe that?
    - When you fall short, do you tend to move toward God or away from Him? Why?
3. **Read Romans 7:14-20.** Paul describes wanting to do what's right but finding himself doing the very things he doesn't want to do. Where do you see this same struggle show up in your own life?
    - How can repeated failures affect our willingness to be honest with God about our struggles?
4. **Read Romans 7:21-25.** Paul is honest about his struggle, but he doesn't leave us without hope. What stands out to you about these verses?
    - Where does Paul find hope?
    - How might remembering where our hope comes from change the way we respond when we fall short?

5. When you think about who you are, what tends to speak the loudest—your past, your failures, other people's opinions, or what God says about you? Why do you think that is?
    - What changes when we understand that God's love isn't something we have to earn?
6. **Read Ephesians 3:14-19.** Paul prays that believers would understand just how wide, long, high, and deep Christ's love is for them. What stands out to you about Paul's prayer?
    - What might change in your relationship with God if you truly believed He loves you, even on your worst days?

APPLICATION QUESTION *(This section is designed to invite group members to reflect on and do on their own.)*

1. This week, read Ephesians 1, 2, and 3:1–13. As you read, slowly pay attention to what God says about who you are in Christ.
    - Is there something you've been believing about yourself that doesn't line up with what God says about you?
    - Then read Ephesians 3:14–21 as a personal prayer, asking God to help you understand and experience how deeply He loves you.

LEADERS - UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY

Night of Worship & Thanksgiving | Thursday, November 12, 7 PM | Richmond Campus. All campuses, friends, and families are invited to worship together.

Meals for Kids | Saturday, November 14

Serve with your group to package meals for children in need-both locally and around the world. Register at rpc.me/events.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

God, thank you for loving us more than we can fully understand. Help us see ourselves the way You see us, not through our failures, our past, or what others say about us, but through what Jesus has done for us. Holy Spirit, help us believe what You say is true of us. Drown out the voices of fear and condemnation and root us more deeply in Your love and help us live from that love. In Jesus' name, Amen.