

# STUDY NOTES

## THE WAYS OF GRACE

A Series At New City Church

[newcityphx.com/sermons](http://newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message “The Investigator” on 10/6/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

## SCRIPTURE: JOHN 20:24-29

## TURNING OUR FLAWS TO GOD

The Enneagram offers nine mirrors for self-reflection. The goal of the Enneagram is to help you let go of the walls you’ve built because of sin and fear. It should guide you in learning to be comfortable with your flaws and turning them over to God! The Enneagram type 5 is “the investigator.”

## THE INVESTIGATOR

People who identify as an investigator are on a “search for knowledge and understanding.” They strive for decisive clarity through thoughtful conclusions. They hope to be a source of wisdom and knowledge in a world of questions and uncertainty. Their driving desire is to uncover the essence of truth.

**The investigator’s basic fear is being useless, helpless or incapable.**

- *Do you know anyone who is an investigator? What is it like interacting with that person?*
- *How have you seen the investigator’s character traits used for good?*

Thomas, who was one of Jesus’ disciples, could be seen as an investigator. He desired to have evidence and clarity regarding Jesus’ resurrection. Just imagine how he felt when he heard the other disciples talking about Jesus rising from the dead! As you might imagine, he need proof; to see Jesus for himself.

- *How would you have reacted to hearing about Jesus rising from the dead?*

## THE INVESTIGATOR IN LIGHT OF SIN

Sin has impacted each of our God-given traits. At their worst, investigators can be arrogant, slow-moving or emotionally detached. They can become arrogant or too self-reliant when they believe that they have gained all the information possible on a subject. They can be slow-moving because they take a lot of time to investigate every option. Investigators can also appear aloof or unresponsive because they are trying to understand what’s going on, especially when it comes to their thoughts or feelings.

- *Describe a time in your life when you were right about something, but you lost by hurting the people around you. What could have helped you in that situation?*
- *Have you been tempted to withdraw from others to avoid being wrong?*

## GROWING INTO OUR IDENTITY

Each of us, and especially investigators, needs to grow in humility by acting on our faith. Growth comes when we realize that our identity and worth does not hinge on always knowing everything. Our identity comes from Jesus, not from being right. When we embrace our true identity, it frees us up to feel like we can share our emotions with others. We don’t have to isolate ourselves in fear of being wrong.

**Our identity comes from Jesus, the one who loves us perfectly even when we aren’t right.**

- *If you know that you are loved regardless of being right, how can that free you up to act in faith?*
- *How is God calling you step out in faith in your life?*
- *Pray with each other to find your identity in Jesus’ love for you.*