

DEVOTIONAL

STARTING OVER when it's time to let go, and let God

WEEK TWO

I know who I was

by: Rebecca Doner



I was sporty and active. I was an overachiever and had friends in several social groups. I often felt alone and misunderstood, but I was happy. I loved music of all kinds: blues; jazz; classical; country; rock – you name it. I loved to read, mostly fantasy, sci-fi, mysteries and poetry – I read for hours. I was fun and a little wild. I could get lost in my thoughts for hours and loved to think and question things. I was never concerned about body image or people's opinions. I was confident and terrified and had failed enough times that the fear of failure had left me, but I had a disdain for the feeling of having not measured up. I worked hard and was thankful for work, I studied hard and played hard. I loved and lived with my amp turned to 10. I adored people and animals. I always believed in people and that there was a story behind what I saw and I longed to know it – probably because I had my own story behind what others saw. I was all of these things and, I was more.

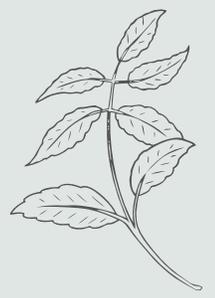
When something happened...for a decade I became something new. One of the best things ever happened to me – I became a mother (four times over) and I was either pregnant or enjoying my babies for almost 10 years of my life. I call it my "decade of diapers". During this season I was sleep-deprived, barely organized, hardly dressed, ragged and distracted in a fog for a very long time. That role became my world which I was fine with of course, but somehow in its blur it completely redefined me.

As my children grow and my freedom is slowly reclaimed and as responsibility slowly shifts from my shoulders to their own, I find myself in a strange place. It is as if I am standing and as I look into the mirror I ask, "Who is she now?" – that woman who looks back at me. As I said, I knew who I was – and in many ways, I am still very much that person and yet, I am forever changed and forever a mother. This new phase intrigues me and I can't help but wonder what the future holds.

For a time, I was saddened by this feeling, I thought I had lost something. I was angry when people would define me by things that I wasn't sure to be true for myself. Then I realized, that I have gained the most amazing opportunity. In this season, I get to decide with a fresh canvas what my self-portrait would look like. I get to start over. Perhaps I have become an older, wiser, more tender version of a younger me. Perhaps an adventurer or someone who will challenge themselves to change the world. Perhaps a quiet bookworm, who finds comfort withdrawing from others. Perhaps all of these things, and none of these things – perhaps something I can not even dream for myself.

It is as I begin to consider all the possibilities of this next stage I experience my most profound realization. In the past years, I have gone through endless and in some cases extreme life changes and now I stand at the cusp of a new journey. Yet, there is something that has never changed – never wavered – never left me. It is perhaps the only thing that changed with me in every celebration, every heartache, every secret doubt, public failure and in every victory. The only constant in every exhale of every moment has been Christ.

I suddenly have a deep and profound understanding of the promise that God is the same yesterday, today and forever found in Hebrews 13:8."



"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

I am left then, still standing in front of the mirror – wondering who I am. Still staring at that blank canvas envisioning possibilities – hoping, wanting and planning. Somehow though, in all the anxious anticipation I find myself passing the brush that I SO desperately want to wield over to the God who is faithful, who is true, and who has been and will be constant as He creates a new masterpiece in me.

am quite assured He will create in me something beyond whatever I might be capable of on my own...Whatever moment you are in, be it a mountain or a valley, be it stillness or chaos – know that in every fresh start, there is a faithful constant who will and has always been the same and He is just waiting for you to hand Him your brush...

Questions:

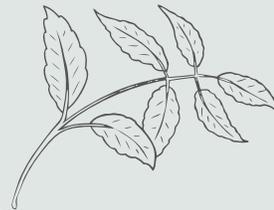
1. Are you experiencing a season of rediscovery in some area of your life?

How does it make you feel?

2. How does the verse from Hebrews 13:8 encourage you during seasons of change?

3. Are you willing to hand over the brush of your life to God and trust Him with the canvas of your life?

Why or Why Not?



Do you need Prayer?
Connect with us through our prayer team at
pray@springvale.org

Or reach out to our women's ministry team at
women@springvale.org

This week's speaker:
Rebecca Doner