

# Kids Club

Leader Guide

# Oct.

# Week 3

October 20th

# DEFINED

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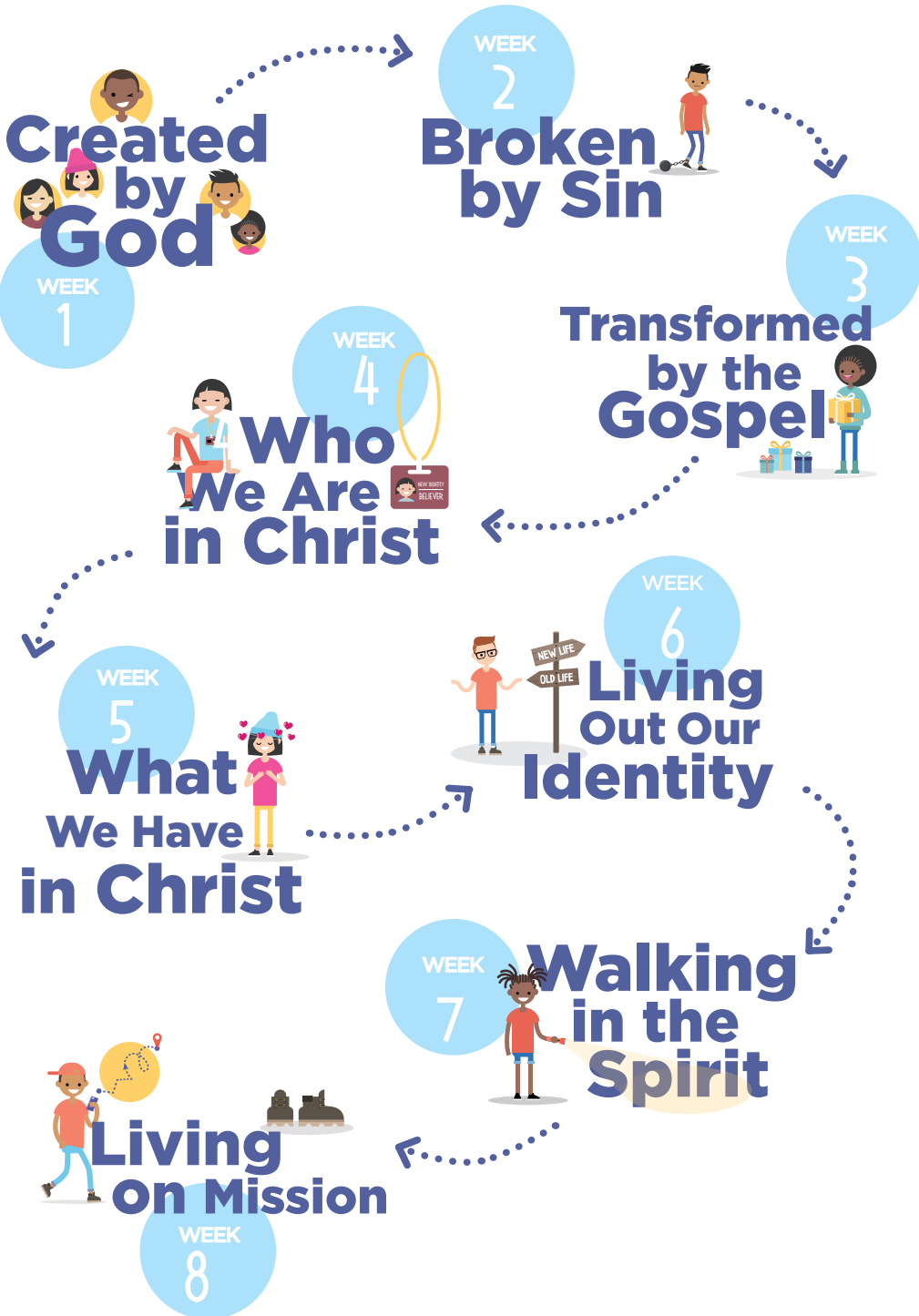
WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE

AN 8-WEEK STUDY ON IDENTITY FOR KIDS



Leader Guide

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## **WHAT HAPPENS IN EACH SESSION?**

Each session is divided into the following parts:

**INITIATE (INTRODUCTION 5 min.)** — As soon as they arrive, kids will play games or do quick activities to pique their interest in what they will learn during the session.

**INQUIRE (BIBLE STUDY 10 min.) \*\*Snack Time** — Kids will hear a Bible story, learn about a specific part of their identity to grow closer to God, discover how to put into practice the specific ways they learn, review the memory passage, pray, and apply biblical truths to their lives.

**INVESTIGATE (BIBLE STUDY ACTIVITIES 10 min.)** — Kids will participate in activities that help them internalize the learning and express ways they can use what they learn. Two activities are suggested for each session. You may use these in different ways: form small groups to work with different teachers at the same time or conduct both activities consecutively. This is also a perfect time to go through the Activity Books to dive deeper into the discussion.

**INCREASE (CONCLUSION-5min)** — During this time, kids will review both the Bible story and the application of what they studied during the session. They will have a prayer time and end the session with an active game related to what they have studied.

**FREE PLAY (CONCLUSION- 30min)**

## SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS

Some kids who participate in *Defined: Who God Says You Are* may not have made a personal decision to trust in Jesus as Savior yet. This study could present you with just the right setting for sharing God's plan with kids.

Consider these thoughts as you get ready to share.

- The ultimate goal of teaching the Bible is for a person to trust in Jesus as his Savior when the Holy Spirit leads him to realize that he has sinned against God and is spiritually lost. The Holy Spirit is the leader in the experience, but believers have the responsibility of following the Holy Spirit's leading.
- Becoming a Christian is an individual matter and discussions about conversion are more effective when conducted individually. The child will feel freer to share true thoughts and feelings.
- If a kid indicates a desire to become a Christian, ask her to tell you what she feels. Use questions that require thoughtful answers rather than just yes or no. Use language the child understands.
- Use your Bible as you share the gospel. After reading a Bible verse, be ready to explain the verse in your own words. Help the child understand unfamiliar terms such as repent. Refer to *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* to help you know Bible verses to share and kid-friendly ways to explain how to become a Christian.
- Help the child know how he can respond. Use directions such as: Tell God you know you have sinned and are sorry. Ask God to forgive you for your sin, for wanting your way instead of God's way. Ask Jesus to become your Savior (the One who keeps you from being separated from God) and Lord (the One in charge). Again, refer to *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* for good ways to help kids know what they can do.
- One common misconception for kids is that being baptized makes them a Christian. Be sure they know the difference between becoming a Christian, being baptized, and joining the church.
- Include parents or caregivers when possible. Tell them what led you to discuss salvation with their child. Explain where you think the child is in his spiritual journey (e.g., becoming aware of a need for God, is thoughtfully considering how to respond, made a decision to trust in Christ, or wants to be baptized).
- Pray. Ask God's leadership as you help boys and girls grow in their understanding of salvation.

# Transformed by the Gospel



## TRANSFORMED— changed completely

When a person trusts Jesus as Savior, he is changed completely. He is forgiven of sins, adopted into God's family, wants to act differently, and is full of God's love.



### KNOW

Trusting in Jesus for salvation transforms your identity.



### UNDERSTAND

God's salvation is eternal. Nothing can separate believers from God's love.



### DISCOVER

God's salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.

# INITIATE

**Teaching Tip:**

If you have an uneven number of kids, guide a leader to partner with a child.

**WHAT'S DIFFERENT?**

- Welcome kids as they arrive.
- Guide kids to partner together and determine which kid in the pair has the first birthday in the year. Instruct kids to stand back to back with their partners. Direct the kids with the first birthdays to quickly change something about their appearance. Call time after a few seconds and let kids face each other while the child who made no changes looks for the change in appearance the partner made.
- Invite kids to share the changes they found.
- Instruct kids to stand back to back again while the other partner in each pair changes his appearance. After a few seconds, direct kids to face each other. Challenge kids to find the changes.
- Guide kids to change partners and play again as time allows.
- Point out that the point of the game was “change.” Remind kids that you’ve been studying about identity. Lead kids to review what they have learned in the previous two sessions (Created by God and Broken by Sin).
- Explain that during this session’s study, kids will learn about a change that is more complete and more important than the changes they made during the game—this change transforms someone’s identity



# INQUIRE

## You Will Need:

Item 4: “Key Passage Poster”

Item 8: “Gospel Statements”

5 envelopes

## To Do:

Display the “Key Passage Poster.”

Print and cut apart the 5 “Gospel Statements.” Put each statement in an envelope. Number the envelopes 1–5.

## Teaching Tip:

Consider inviting a male leader to read the part of the story when God spoke to Saul and then to Ananias or record a man reading these parts of the story before the session. Give the reader a copy of the Bible story so he will know when to read. Position the reader behind the group or hidden in a corner out of sight but where he can easily be heard.

## OPEN UP: TURN AROUND

- Lead kids to form a circle. Once in place, kids may choose to face inward, outward, to the left, or to the right.
- Cue kids to make quarter, half, or full turns using 90 degrees, 180 degrees, and 360 degrees as commands. After each turn, if kids are eye-to-eye with someone next to them or across the circle, they have successfully “made contact.” Continue calling out commands. The first player to make five contacts wins.
- Explain that today’s Bible story is about someone who made a complete turnaround to follow Jesus. Jesus transformed his life forever.
- Guide the kids to find Ephesians 1:1 in their Bibles. Recall together that Paul is the person who wrote the Book of Ephesians, a letter to the church at Ephesus.
- Then invite kids to find and read Acts 9:1. Explain that Saul and Paul are the same person, but Saul started to be called Paul between the time of this Bible story and the time he wrote Ephesians.



- Challenge the kids to notice as many ways Saul changed as they can while you tell the Bible story in your own words. Note: Some kids may point out that Saul’s name became Paul. Remind the group that Scripture does not indicate that Saul changed his name to Paul. Saul is the Hebrew pronunciation for this name. Paul is his Greek name.

### **TELL THE BIBLE STORY: SAUL’S CONVERSION**

Saul was an enemy of those who believed in Jesus. Saul entered house after house and dragged the believers away to prison. He made murderous threats against Jesus’ followers, requesting permission from the high priest to travel to Damascus and arrest believers there.

As Saul was nearing Damascus, a bright light from heaven flashed around him. The light blinded Saul, and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice ask: “Why are you persecuting (hurting) Me?” “Who are You, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting,” was the answer. “Go into the city. You will be told what to do.”

Saul’s traveling partners led him to the city. He could not see for three days. God told a man named Ananias, “Go to Saul. He has been praying. He knows you are coming to help him see again.”

Ananias replied, “Lord, I have heard how much evil this man has done.” God replied, “Go because I have chosen this man to tell the Gentiles about Me!” Ananias obeyed. When he put his hands on Saul’s eyes, Saul could see again. Saul was baptized and immediately began to preach in the synagogues about Jesus. “Jesus is God’s Son!” Saul announced.

Some Jews were angry with Saul’s new message. They plotted to kill him. Saul’s friends helped him escape Damascus by lowering him over the wall in a basket. Saul went back to Jerusalem and continued to speak boldly about his faith in Jesus.

— based on Acts 9:1-20

### **MAKE THE CONNECTION**

- Explain that Saul was originally convinced he was a blameless and law-abiding follower of God. Meeting Jesus made it clear to Saul that he was a sinner and needed forgiveness. Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him from the inside out. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. (1 Tim. 1:15) Jesus called Saul, also known as Paul, who was once an enemy



to Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord.

- When we trust in Jesus, we aren't just saying that we agree with the idea of Jesus as God's Son. Through the gospel, God opens our eyes to who Jesus really is. We put our trust in Him, believing that His death on the cross provides forgiveness for our sins and that because He was raised from the dead, He is King over everything. When we trust in Jesus, He changes our hearts. He removes our identity as a sinner and gives us a new identity—child of God!

### DEEPER STUDY

- Mention that the word *gospel* means “good news.” The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners. Distribute five envelopes to different children. At your prompting, guide each child to open the envelope one at a time and read the statement inside. After each statement is read, give a brief explanation of each one.
  - *1. God rules.* The Bible tells us that God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.
  - *2. We sinned.* During the last session, we learned that everyone who has ever lived, except Jesus, has sinned. Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Rom. 3:23) Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Rom. 6:23)
  - *3. God provided.* Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His perfect Son, Jesus, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. God's salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.
  - *4. Jesus gives.* Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21, or 1 Peter 3:18.
  - *5. We respond.* Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10, 13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

## MEMORIZE

- Call attention to the “Key Passage Poster.” Point out that kids have already memorized the first and last verses of the passage. Challenge the kids to repeat those verses by memory but to read the middle verses from the poster.
- Direct attention to verses 8-9 and read them together. Point out that these verses give important information about Jesus’ gift of salvation. Explain that no one can work hard enough or be good enough to be forgiven of their sins and made right with God. Show that verse 8 says “grace through faith” saves a person from his sins, and grace is a gift of God. God’s salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive. Lead the group to read the verses together several times. Challenge them to repeat as much of the two verses as they can without looking.

## PRAY

- Remark that God’s love for His people is amazing. State that God’s salvation lasts forever because He will not let anything separate believers from His love. (Rom. 8:37-39)
- Mention that the Holy Spirit convicts people at different times when they are ready to trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Note that some ways they will know the Holy Spirit is helping them are that they will realize how serious their sin is (conviction), understand their separation from God and need for a Savior, and desire to turn from their sin and trust in Jesus (repentance). Comment that some kids in the group may already have trusted Jesus as their Savior, while others may be asking questions.
- Lead kids to pray silently, suggesting they either pray that God will help them know when the time is right for them to trust Jesus as Savior, or thank God that He is already their Savior and Lord. After a few moments, add a quiet “Amen.”

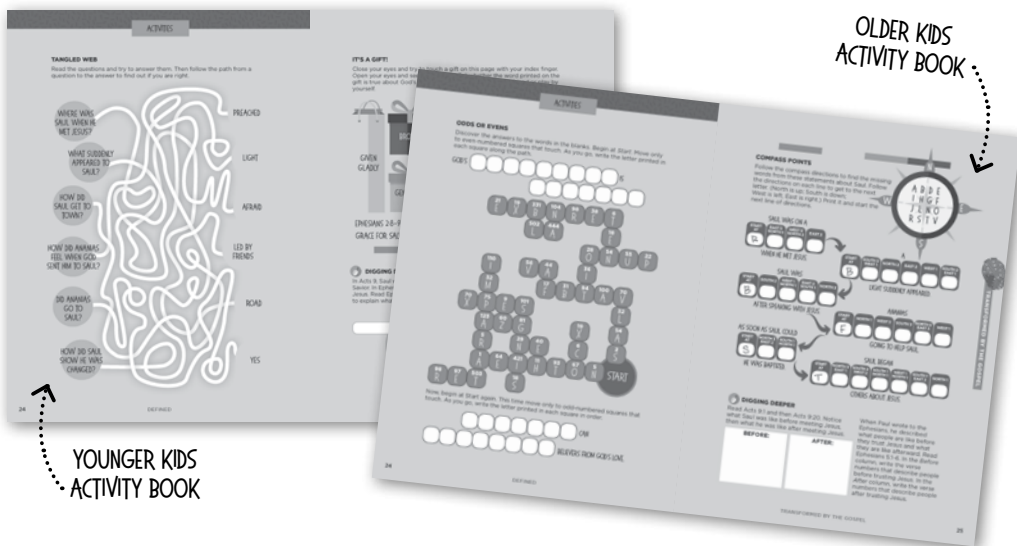


# INVESTIGATE

## You Will Need:

Activity Books, pencils

- Transition kids into small groups (an older and younger group). Distribute Activity Books and pencils.
- Review the main points of Session 2's daily pages. Lead kids to share what God taught them through studying His Word. Encourage kids for their commitment to study God's Word and encourage them to continue in their study at home. Call attention to the family page for Session 3 at the back of their workbooks. Encourage kids to share this page with their parents and discuss what they learned this week.
- Guide kids to complete this session's activities in their Activity Books. Review the "Digging Deeper" activity for the week and discuss what kids have learned about who they truly are.
- As kids work, review today's Bible story and key points. Remind kids that trusting in Jesus for salvation transforms their identity. Jesus changes the identity of every believer from broken by sin to child of God! When you trust in Jesus for salvation, your identity is in Christ—who God says you are.
- Encourage kids to continue their study during the coming week. Tell them that they will learn more about this new identity in the weeks to come.



## MEMORY VERSE SAND ART

### **You Will Need:**

Item 4: “Key Passage Poster”

A small, empty bottle with a lid for each child; small funnels (or paper to use as funnels); index cards; different colors of sand; pens or thin markers; tape

### **To Do:**

If you don’t have colored sand available, you can make your own “sand” by crushing colored chalk and mixing it with salt.

### **Teaching Tip:**

Urge kids not to mix their sand colors too much. Too much stirring can make the sand all one color instead of showcasing the beautiful colors.

- Lead kids to read the entire memory passage together from the poster. Call for kids who can repeat Ephesians 2:1 from memory to do so. Continue by letting kids who can repeat verse 10 from memory do so. Challenge kids to repeat verses 8-9 from memory, but offer help as needed. Emphasize that God’s salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.
- Suggest the group make sand art gifts for their families that will help them know about God’s wonderful gift of salvation. Distribute the cards and let kids print the words of Ephesians 2:8-9 on them. Explain that the cards can be taped to the sand art gifts.
- Give each kid an empty bottle. Tell the kids they can layer the sand into the bottles in any order they want to create their unique designs. Demonstrate adding sand with a funnel. Kids may add special effects to their designs by poking a toothpick or drinking straw inside of the bottle to gently stir a layer of sand.
- As kids work, review Ephesians 2:8-9 and ask kids to explain its meaning. Encourage the group to share their sand art with their families but also share the Bible verses they have memorized. Let kids attach the key verse cards to their sand art.
- Direct the kids to hold their sand art bottles and repeat Ephesians 2:8-9, remembering that God’s salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.