



Kids Club

Leader Guide

Oct.

Week 1

October 6th

DEFINED

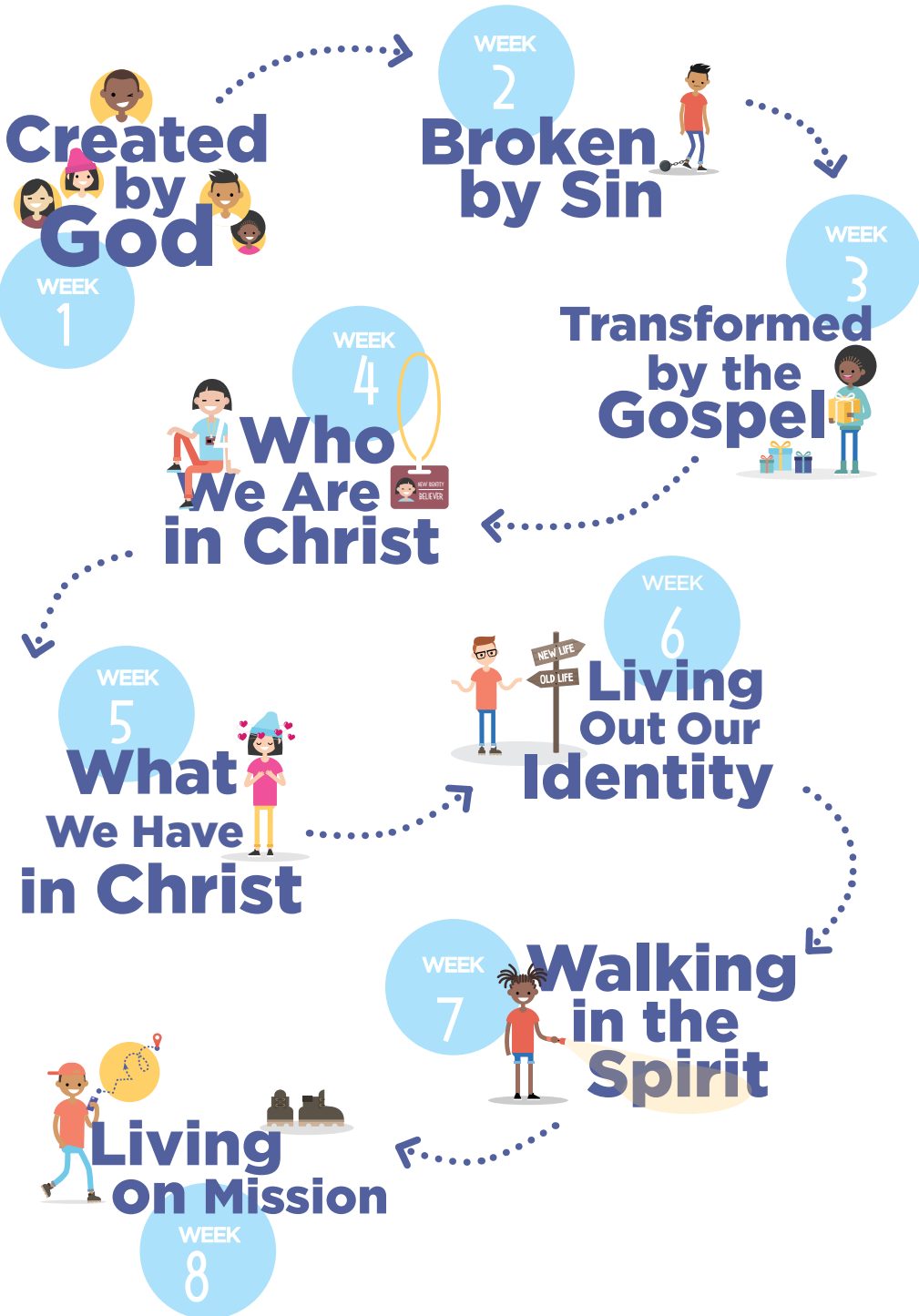
WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE

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.



Created by God



CREATE—

to make, form, and bring into being

Only God is the true Creator.
He can create something from nothing!



KNOW

God created people
in His image and for
His glory.



UNDERSTAND

God has the
authority to
determine our
identity and
purpose.



DISCOVER

The Bible helps us
know what being
created in God's
image means.



INITIATE

You Will Need:

2 sheets of yellow paper, 2 sheets of blue paper, tape

To Do:

Attach each sheet of paper to a different wall or as far apart as practical on one wall.

Teaching Tip:

If your space is small, make a tape line on the floor. Direct kids to straddle the line and move from left to right to show their choices rather than moving to different signs.

If your group is mostly older kids, consider directing them to move to the correct signs within 3 seconds.

WHO I AM

- Call attention to the papers on the walls. Tell kids you will make statements and assign a color to go with the answers. Explain that kids will move to the color sign that describes them. Kids should return to the center of the play area before the next statement is given.
- Name one of these choices and direct kids to the colors that show their answers.
 - If you like playing video games more, move to the yellow sign. If you like watching movies more, move to the blue sign.
 - If you like pizza best, move to the blue sign. If you like chicken nuggets best, move to the yellow sign.
- Continue using these choices: smelling cinnamon or smelling vanilla, swimming or riding a bike, skipping or running, playing board games or working puzzles. Continue with a few more examples of your own.
- Comment that during this Bible study, kids will learn that God made each of them in His image and for His glory. Explain that kids can learn more about what being made in God's image means as they study the Bible.

INQUIRE

You Will Need:

Item 4: “Key Passage Poster”

6 note cards, markers or pens, scissors

To Do:

On each note card, write a Bible reference from this list:

Genesis 1:3-5; Genesis 1:6-8; Genesis 1:9-12; Genesis 1:13-19;

Genesis 1:20-23; Genesis 1:24-25.

Print the “Key Passage Poster” and display each verse on a large focal wall. Print 1 additional copy of verse 10. Cut verse 10 apart to make 6 different phrases: For we are His workmanship; created in Christ Jesus; for good works; which God prepared; ahead of time; for us to do. Eph. 2:10

Teaching Tip:

If you teach a small group of kids, let them work in pairs, but give them two cards to research. Pair younger and older kids together so they can look up verses and read together.

OPEN UP: TRACK THE DAYS

- Form six groups. Give each group a paper and markers. Explain that kids have probably heard the story of creation many times, but today they will research the Bible verses printed on their cards. Lead kids to work in their groups to find and read the Bible passage together. Kids will record on the papers what God made in their assigned verses. Allow several minutes of work.
- Call the groups back together. Let each group share their findings and post their paper on the wall. Note for kids that no one shared when people were created.
- Explain that God created everything for His glory, and He made people special from the rest of creation. He made us in His image. Ask kids what they think it means to be made in God’s image.
- Open your Bible to Genesis 2:1-25. Read the following Bible story ahead of time, and retell in your own words. Add inflection and pauses to help with engagement.



TELL THE BIBLE STORY: CREATED BY GOD

On the sixth day of creation, God created people. He said, “Let’s make man in our image. They will rule over the whole earth and take care of all living creatures.”

So God made man and woman in His image. God formed the man, Adam, from the dust of the ground. God breathed into him the breath of life. Adam became a living being. God placed Adam in the garden of Eden where all kinds of trees grew. A river watered the garden. Adam worked the garden and took care of it. God told Adam, “You may eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from it, you will die.”

Then God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” So God decided to make a helper for the man. God brought all the animals to Adam, and Adam named them. But none of the animals was a good helper for the man. So God put Adam into a deep sleep. He took one of the man’s ribs and closed the man’s side. God took the rib and made a woman!

God took the woman to Adam. Adam was extremely happy when he saw Eve. “This one, at last,” he said, “is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.”

The woman was a perfect helper for the man; she was his wife.

God blessed Adam and Eve and provided everything they needed.

That was the end of the sixth day. On the seventh day, God stopped creating and rested because He had completed His work.

— based on Genesis 1-2

MAKE THE CONNECTION

- As our Creator, God determines the value and purpose of His creation. In other words, God has the authority to define what is true about His creation. He defines its identity.
- Remark that a person’s true identity is who God says he or she is. Turn to Colossians 1:15-17 and have an older child read it aloud. Tell boys and girls that since Jesus has all power and authority, He has the authority to determine who we are and our purpose in life. He has the authority to determine our identity.

DEEPER STUDY

■ Point out that being made in God's image means to have some characteristics that are like God, or to be patterned after Him. Ask kids to raise their hands if they have the ability to think and reason. Mention that thinking and reasoning is one way people are made in God's image. Ask kids to raise their hands if they can make choices. Note that making choices is a way people are made in God's image. Ask kids to raise their hands if they have the ability to make promises. Continue with these questions: Who can be creative? Who can learn right from wrong? After each one, remark that it is a way people are made in God's image.

■ God gives people the ability to think and to feel emotions and to make choices. He gives us the ability to understand right and wrong. In this way we are made in His image.

■ Explain that we can learn about being made in God's image throughout the Bible, not just in Genesis. Direct kids to locate Ephesians 1:11-14 in their Bibles. Have a volunteer read it aloud.

■ Remark that Paul's letter to the Ephesians teaches more about God's creation of people.

Direct kids to Ephesians 1:4. Ask, "When did God plan for people?" (*before He created the world*) Continue directing kids to the different verses and asking the appropriate questions:

- (v. 7) What can Jesus provide for a person? (*redemption and forgiveness from sin according to His grace*)
- (v. 20) Who raised Jesus from the dead? (*God the Father*)
- (vv. 20-22) What did God put Jesus above? (*everything*)

■ Point out that kids expressed characteristics about themselves as they played the opening game, telling what they were like. Remind kids that all people are made in God's image and for His glory. Being made in God's image is not really about how we look; it is about who we are and what God created us to do.

■ When we say God created us in His image, it means we have many similar qualities to God. He gave us these qualities so that we could glorify Him in unique ways. We can use our intelligence, emotions, and creativity to think about, love, and worship God. Our identity is who God says we are. Explain that we will learn more about our identity throughout this study.

■ Lead kids to find Psalm 139:13-14 in their Bibles. Let volunteers tell from verse 14 the results of how God formed them (*wondrously made*). Explain that God made people in just the right way to accomplish God's plan for them.

■ Direct kids to Acts 17:24-25. Ask what these verses teach us about God. (God made the world and everything in it; He has all authority; He is the Creator of everything.) Direct kids to read verse 26. Ask what this verse teaches us about people. (From Adam, God has made every nation; God has determined the time and boundaries of where people live.) Explain that God chose everything about us—who we are, where we are, when we live—for His purposes and His glory.

MEMORIZE

You Will Need:

Item 4: “Key Passage Poster”

To Do:

Print the “Key Passage Poster” and display each verse on a large focal wall. You will keep this posted for the entire 8-week series. Print 1 additional copy of verse 10. Cut verse 10 apart to make 6 different phrases: *For we are His workmanship; created in Christ Jesus; for good works; which God prepared; ahead of time; for us to do.* Eph. 2:10

- Explain that during the study, the group will work to memorize Ephesians 2:1-10. During this session, kids will work to memorize the last verse of the passage because it sums up the whole passage.
- Display the verse strips in order.
Lead the group to read the verse aloud together. Explain that all people are made by God and for His glory. People are created in God’s image. Point out that Ephesians 2:10 teaches God planned for people to do good works. God prepared the way ahead of people. He wants people to live according to His plan.
- Lead the group to read the verse aloud several times. Form two groups and let them alternate turns to read the verse phrases. Then remove one section. Direct kids to read the verse again, filling in the missing section. Replace the section and remove a different section. Continue several times. Then stop replacing sections as kids repeat the verse. Keep going until kids are saying the verse from memory.

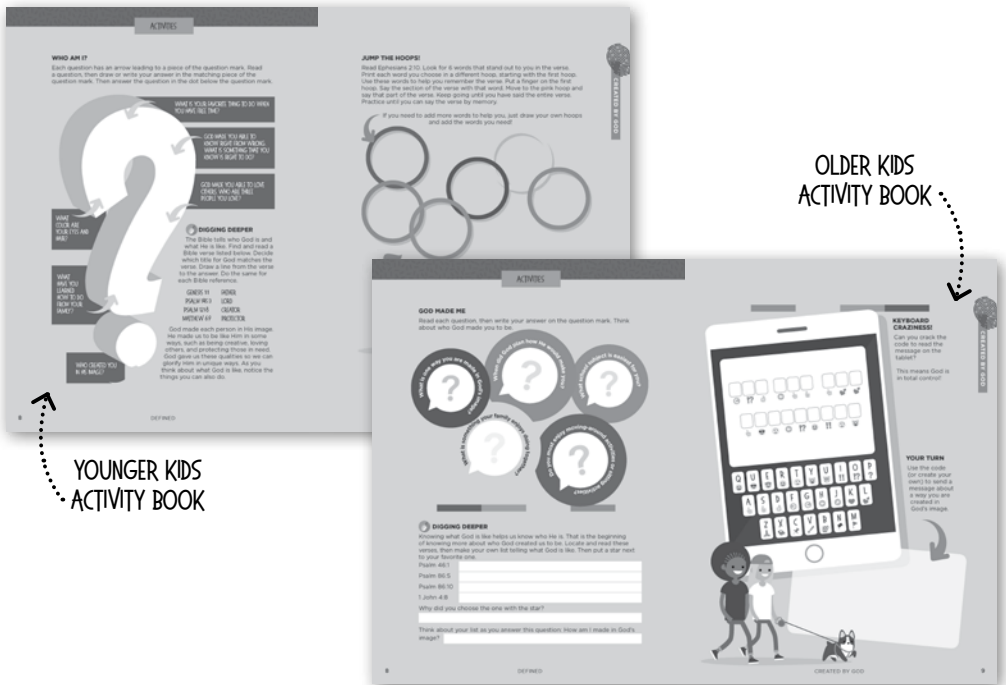
PRAY

- Ask what people often do when they are in the presence of kings or other important people. (*Answers may include kneel, bow, or shake hands.*) Suggest kids kneel as they pray to remind them that God is the One who created them. Guide kids to pray silently as you suggest prayer prompts.
- Say, “Praise God for two characteristics that describe Him.” Pause as kids pray quietly. Continue in the same way with these suggestions: “Thank God for a way you are made in His image. Think about the way God made you to be and thank Him for making you exactly who you are.” End with “Amen” after a few moments of silent prayer.

INVESTIGATE

You Will Need:
Activity Books, pencils

- Transition kids into small groups, leading them to form an older group and a younger group. If you have a large group of either older or younger kids, form groups of about 5 or 6 kids. Distribute the Activity Books and pencils. Direct the boys and girls to write their names on the inside cover.
- Explain to the group that each week they will have pages in the Activity Books to complete. Call attention to the puzzles and fun activities that can help them learn more about God and their relationship with Him. Also point out the daily pages where kids can write about what they are learning.
- Complete the Activity Book activities for this session. As kids work, talk with them about today's Bible story and about being created in the image of God. Point out the pages for kids to complete at home. Explain that working on these pages can help them learn more about being created in God's image. Encourage kids to continue their study during the week.



GAME: GUESS WHO?

You Will Need:

No supplies needed.

- Have everyone sit in a circle. Get one player to volunteer to be the guesser.
- Instruct the guesser to leave the room, while the remaining players appoint someone in the room to be "It".
- The guesser then returns and rejoins the circle. They must try to identify who "It" is by asking yes or no questions.
- The objective is to guess who "It" is by asking as few questions as possible.
- Once the guesser guesses correctly, "It" will be the next guesser.
- Play enough rounds so that each child has a turn to be at least a guesser or "it."

Discuss:

1. In what ways are each of us different from each other?
2. In what ways are we similar?

Read:

John 3:16

Discuss:

3. How does God feel about us?
4. What did God do for us?

Wrap It Up:

Each one of us is made by God. We are all special and precious in God's eyes. God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to be punished for our sins. God did this so that we can become his children and be with him forever and ever!



GAME: INCREASE

You Will Need:

Bell

- Instruct kids to begin walking around the room in random ways as they listen to these instructions: When you hear the bell, find another person and ask, “Who are you?” That person must answer the question without using the word “I” or her name. Then she asks you, “Who are you?” You must respond without using “I” or your name. Tell kids that if their partner does use her name or “I,” she may make a loud wrong-answer beep.
- Suggest kids use answers such as “a lefty,” “a soccer player,” or “someone who likes to read.” When kids hear the bell again, they will begin walking until the bell sounds again. This time, each child must find a different person to partner with for the questions and answers. Keep playing until kids have had four or five turns to answer.
- Explain God made each of us uniquely, but He made all of us in His image. We can know that God, in His authority, determines our identity and our purpose. Call on a volunteer to thank God for making people in His own image and for providing the Bible to help us know more about what that means.
- As kids leave, remind them to take their Activity Books and complete this week’s activity pages at home. Assure kids they will not have to share any personal information or thoughts they record in their books. Challenge them to remember to bring their books with them for the next session.
- Point out the session’s “Family Guide” pages located in the back of the Activity Books. Remind kids to complete this session’s “Family Guide” with an adult at home. If kids don’t take their books home, print a “Family Guide” for this week’s session from the printable items and distribute as parents arrive.

