

Kids Club

Leader Guide

Oct.

Week 4

October 27th

DEFINED

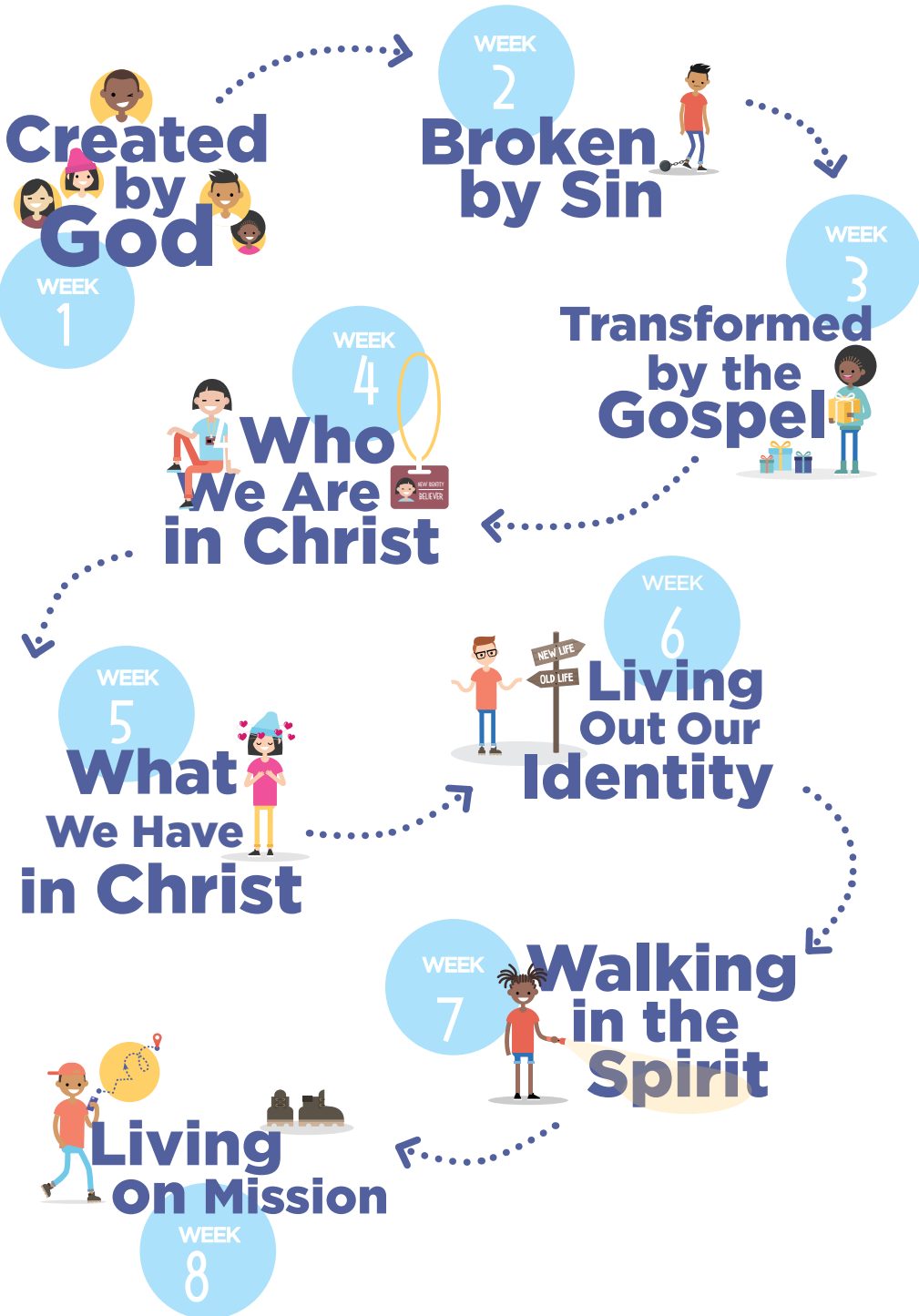
WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE

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)



Who We Are in Christ



ADOPTED—

taken or chosen as one's own

When a person trusts in Jesus as Savior, God brings that person into His family as His own son or daughter.



KNOW

You are who God says you are



UNDERSTAND

Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives a new identity.



DISCOVER

God defines the true identity of all followers of Jesus.

INITIATE

You Will Need:

Item 3: “Allergy Alert Poster”

Item 11: “Human Vine Assignments”

Masking tape, grapes

For each team of 4: Bible, cotton balls, spoon, bowl, and cup

To Do:

Post the Allergy Alert listing the grapes. Tape a starting line on the floor. For each team (vine) of 4 kids, number a set of assignment cards. Place each assignment card and any materials needed for it in random places around the room. (The further apart, the more fun!)

Teaching Tip:

For older kids, consider forming vines of only girls and vines of only boys.

For smaller groups, consider making one vine and let kids race the clock to complete the assignments.



HUMAN VINE

- Welcome kids to the group. Form teams of four. Instruct the team members to line up at the tape line and join hands with the person behind them. The leader can keep one hand free. The last kid in line will use both his hands to hold the hand of the player before him.
- Explain that teams must move as a “vine” without dropping hands. Mention that if a vine drops hands at any point, they must return to the beginning and start again. Point out the different stations. Tell the players the vine leader (the one with a free hand) will lead the vine to a station and must complete the assignment on the card using only her free hand. Note that kids can move to different stations in any order, so long as they complete all four stations. Once the first player completes the assignment, he moves to the back of the vine and joins hands with the person in front of him. The new leader guides the vine to the next station. The winner of the game is the first vine (team) to complete all four assignments and return to the start line.
- After the game is played, distribute grapes first to the winning vine, then to other vines. As they eat, remind kids that they have been learning about their identity in Christ—who God says they are.

- Review the main points of the last few sessions:
 - God created people in His image and for His glory. He has the authority to determine our identity and purpose.
 - Before trusting Jesus, our identity is broken by our sin and rebellion against God.
 - Trusting in Jesus for salvation transforms our identity. God’s salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.
- Remark that today’s Bible story is about a time Jesus used a vine to teach His disciples about their identity as believers—who God says they are.

INQUIRE

You Will Need:

Item 4: “Key Passage Poster”

A grape vine (a real or artificial grape vine, an ivy plant, or a vine you make from twisted paper and flat leaves), sheets of paper, markers, world map or globe

Teaching Tip:

Be attentive to helping kids understand more than the literal information about tending vines.

OPEN UP: LEARN ABOUT VINES

- Mention that fruit was a big part of agriculture in Jesus’ day. Show your vine and explain that Jesus used a grapevine in today’s Bible story to teach His followers about their identity as disciples.
- Pass the vine from person to person as you present these additional facts about growing fruit on vines:
 - Fruit grows best when planted on hillsides where they can have sunlight from above and water from rain that runs off the hill.
 - Vines often need to be pruned, or cut back, during the winter.
 - Pruning means to cut off the dead branches and leave the healthy branches to grow and produce fruit.
 - During the harvest time, the farmer’s family might have lived out in the field where they could keep robbers from stealing the fruit at night.
 - During the day, the family picked the fruit.
- Suggest the kids keep these facts in mind as they listen to today’s Bible story from John.

- Open your Bible to John 15. Place the vine before the group. Tell the following Bible story in your own words.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY: THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

Jesus said, “I am the true vine. My Father is the gardener. The gardener cuts off every branch in Me that does not produce fruit. However, if a branch is producing fruit, He prunes it (cuts off just the dead parts) so the branch can continue to produce fruit.”

Then Jesus reminded His disciples they are already followers of Him. Jesus told His disciples He wanted them to remain in Him, just like a healthy branch produces fruit when it stays attached to the vine. He explained that He would remain in them, too. He pointed out that a branch broken off the vine cannot produce any fruit but must stay connected to the vine in order to produce fruit.

Again, Jesus repeated, “I am the vine.” This time, however, He added that His followers were the branches. He urged them to remain in Him in order to produce much fruit. He said, “Without Me, you can do nothing. If you don’t remain in Me, you are like one of the branches that is carried off to be burned up.”

Jesus encouraged the believers to remain in Him and in His words. “God is glorified when you produce much fruit and show that you are My disciples,” Jesus said.

— based on John 15:1-8

MAKE THE CONNECTION

- God defines the true identity of all followers of Jesus. When we trust in Jesus for salvation, our identity (who we are) is changed and transformed by the gospel. Jesus shared this story with His disciples to teach them what it means to grow as a disciple. Tell kids that “producing fruit” refers to growing to look more like Jesus and caring about the things Jesus cares about.
- Like fruit grows when it is connected to the vine, Christians grow to look more like Jesus when we are connected to Him. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives a new identity. Jesus rescues us from sin and frees us to live a life that honors God. We are in the process of becoming who we really are—who God says we are. By doing what is good and right, people who trust Jesus can show that they really believe in Him.



DEEPER STUDY

- Direct kids to open their Bibles to John 15:1. Lead a volunteer to read the verse aloud. Ask the group to identify who the true vine is and who the gardener is in this verse.
- Lead kids to read John 15:5 aloud. Ask kids to identify who Jesus describes here as the vine and branches.
- Mention that Jesus was talking to people who already trusted in Him as Savior. He told them this parable or story about the vine and branches to help them understand that they are now transformed, or changed because they trust in Jesus. He didn't mean that their hair color changed or they got taller. Jesus referred to their hearts changing—their identity.
- Instruct kids to turn in their Bibles to Ephesians 1:5. Read the verse aloud. Point out the word *adopted* in the verse. Explain that when a person trusts Jesus as Savior and Lord, he is adopted. Adoption is when God welcomes us into His family as His children.
- Explain that everyone who trusts in Jesus receives a new identity, but that
new identity won't be fully complete until Jesus returns and makes us sinless like Him. Until then, Christians continue growing to look more like Jesus. This means we are in the process of becoming who we really are—who God defines us to be.
- Jesus taught that we can live out our identity as Christians by remaining or abiding in Him. Trusting in Jesus frees us to live a life that honors God. By obeying God's Word, saying no to sin with the help of the Holy Spirit, and loving others like Jesus loves we can show others that we really believe in Him.

MEMORIZE

- Lead the group to read the entire key passage from the "Key Passage Poster." Call for volunteers to take turns repeating key passage verses from memory without looking at the poster.
- Suggest the group focus on memorizing verses 4 and 5 today. Assign various kids to print different phrases of the verses on sheets of paper. For example, "his great love," "rich in mercy," "alive with Christ," "by grace," and "have been saved." (Use other similar phrases if you are memorizing a different translation.)

- Spread the pages in random order and tape them to the floor. Keep the “Key Passage Poster” displayed. Let kids take turns repeating the words of the verse in order as they jump to the appropriate paper until they reach the end of the verse. Let kids take several turns as time allows.
- Lead the group to repeat the entire passage without looking at the poster for the verses they have already learned.

PRAY

- Show a world map or globe. Remark that God defines the true identity of all followers of Jesus, no matter where in the world they are.
- Invite kids to look at the map and pick a particular country. Then ask them to pray silently, asking God to help believers in that country tell others about Him. Then ask kids to focus on their own town. Encourage them to continue to pray silently, asking God to help your church and other believers in their towns tell about Jesus. After a few moments, add “Amen.”



INVESTIGATE

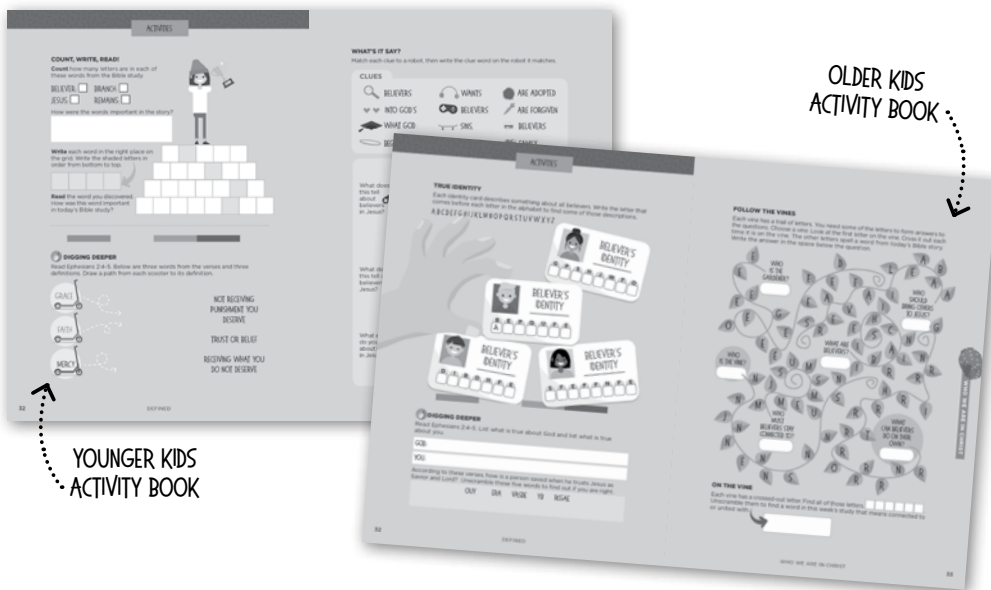
You Will Need:

Activity Books, pencils

Teaching Tip:

To help kids remember to bring their Activity Books to each session post a reminder on social media or send parents a text message, email, or make a phone call during the week to remind them.

- Transition kids into small groups, forming 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.
- Complete this session’s Activity Book pages together with your group, being sensitive to questions and levels of understanding.
- As kids work, review today’s Bible story and what it means to grow to look more like Jesus. Point out the pages for kids to complete at home. Explain that working on the pages can help them learn more about who God says they are in Christ. Encourage kids to continue their study during the coming week.
- Encourage kids to complete “Digging Deeper” in their Activity Books.



PLAY A SPEED STACK GAME TO LEARN MEMORY VERSES

You Will Need:

Item 4: “Key Passage Poster”

Item 12: “Speed Stack Memory Verse Strips” (one copy for each team)

10 plastic cups for each team, scissors, and tape

To Do:

Cut apart the memory verse strips.

Teaching Tip:

Consider letting an early arriver cut the strips apart before the session begins.

- Challenge teams to find how quickly they can stack their cups into a pyramid using these instructions: The pyramids will have four cups on the bottom, three on the next row, two on the next, and one on top. Each person on the team must stack at least one cup during the game. The first team to correctly stack its cups wins.
- Give a signal to begin and let teams work. Announce the winning team. Suggest kids unstack the cups and play the game again. Praise kids for following the rules as they play.
- Tell kids the game will now get more difficult. Distribute ten paper strips to each team and let kids tape each strip to a different cup.
- Explain that kids will now make their pyramids in the same way, except that the Bible verse must be in reading order. The winner will be the first team to read aloud their verse in order. Once kids have their cups labeled, give the signal to begin the game. If teams have difficulty remembering the order of the verses, they may look in a Bible or at the “Key Passage Poster” for help.
- Play the game several times, urging teams to go faster each time.
- End by leading the group to repeat the verses together and then to repeat the entire key passage together.

