

Teaching resources for understanding **identity**



The Bible's answers to our big questions



SERIES INTRODUCTION

faith**in**kids

WHO AM I?

INTRODUCTION



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WHO AM I?

How would you answer that question? You would start with your name. Maybe your marital status. Your job. You might say if you had children. If there was still an awkward silence, you might fill it with listing your hobbies. Would you then blurt out, 'I'm a Christian'?

How would the children in your church answer that question? Do you think that their answers should be different from their unbelieving friends' answers? Can the Bible really tell us the answer to our defining question?

The spirit of our age tells our children they can create their identity. They can decide who they are. They can be whoever they want to be. According to the world, 'If I feel it, it's true'. They are the masters of their future, they are told.



Younger children sing along with their heroes in Frozen 2:

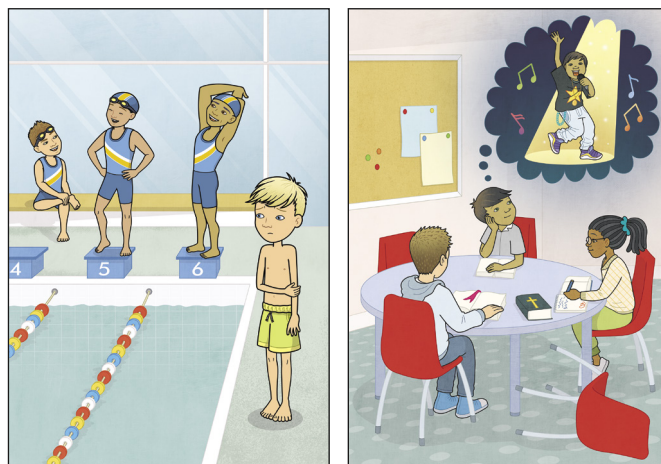
*Show yourself
Step into your power
Throw yourself,
Into something new
You are the one you've been waiting for*

Older children sing along with The Greatest Showman:

*I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me*

Our children are being asked to create themselves in our culture's image. That is not freedom, that is a burden. The better story is that they have been created in their maker's image. Their loving heavenly Father has already said who they are. The Bible story tells them the truth. They can find out who they were made to be, who they are and even who they will be. Once they understand these truths, they can confidently make decisions and live life to the full.

The spirit of the age sounds so appealing. It may even seem loving but it is not true. Our children's hearts are at risk. We might feel overwhelmed, alarmed by the battle and tempted to just give in. We hear ourselves responding negatively to the world's message by pointing out where it is wrong. Yet actually, we have a better story to tell; one of redemption, hope, and purpose. We have the best, most uplifting story to give to our children.



God is a loving heavenly Father who adores our children. He tells them, 'You are precious because I made you', 'Your body is good because I made it' and 'You have infinite value because Christ died for you.' If they know and feel God's love they will trust and obey him more fully.



Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

JOHN 8:31-32

'Who am I?' is a Sunday School resource giving children the Bible's answer to the question. From three-year-olds upwards, your children will discover from the Bible that their true identity is in Christ.

We have written these sessions to help children's leaders teach biblical truths and engage children's hearts with who they really are. We have included Take Home Sheets so that whole families can discover together who they were made to be.



I am made by God



I am made to love others



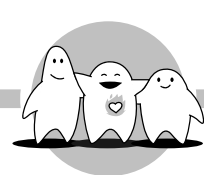
I am hurting



I am given a body



I am loved and forgiven



We are not alone



We will be like Jesus

	Title	Passage	What is the truth that changes our children?	How does this truth change our children? (all ages)	The issues this session will tackle with over 8 year olds only
1	I am made by God	Gen 1:26-31	God made us; we belong to him and are precious to him.	Children who feel secure and valuable because they know they belong to God.	The insecurity of peer pressure. Social media as a false source of belonging.
2	I am made to love others	Gen 1:26-27; 2:18-25	God is love. He made us to love others, like he does. It is not good for us to be alone.	Children who are willing to love others, not just seeking others to love them. Our family, our church and our friends are a gift from God for us.	Sex is for marriage between a man and a woman. Marriage is a unique type of friendship. Experience of sexuality varies. Friendship is universal.
3	I am hurting	John 11:17-37	Life in a broken world hurts. Jesus knows how we feel because he lived here, too.	Children who are not surprised by suffering. They choose to go to Jesus with their hurt, confident that he understands how they feel.	We should all expect life to sometimes hurt. We are not to blame for everything that goes wrong We do not suffer alone.
4	I am given a body	Psalm 139:13-16a Isaiah 53:2	God carefully made each of our bodies wonderfully, as a gift to us.	Children who value their body, as a precious gift from their loving Father.	Some people don't like their bodies. Some people have disabilities. None of our bodies are perfect. Gender dysphoria - some people want to be a different gender.
5	I am loved & forgiven	Luke 15:11-32	Our relationships with God and others are broken because of sin. Jesus can mend my friendship with God.	Children who both see their role in the world's brokenness and know they are totally forgiven. We can be completely forgiven if we become a Christian.	We are responsible for the wrong decisions we make. With God, we feel safe to admit our mistakes and feel certain that we could not be loved more.
6	We are not alone	Acts 9:1-28 John 14:16-17	God's Spirit is changing God's family to become more like God's son.	Children who are confident that God's Spirit is making us more like Jesus. The local church family is the heart of God's eternal plan. Christians belong there.	We are not doomed to keep making the same mistakes. Repeated bad behaviours are an opportunity to see the Spirit's power to change our hearts.
7	We will be like Jesus	1 John 3:2 Rev 22:1-6	A day is coming when Christians will be like Jesus. We will be with him forever in a perfect world.	Children who remain hopeful through present brokenness and hurt, certain that they will be like Jesus and with Jesus forever.	Waiting for the pain to stop can be exhausting. We can be patient. In the new creation there will be no pain, bullying, regret, brokenness or racism.



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