October 2nd, 2016

LESSON 5 | Identity in Christ


Key Verse: John 1:12: “Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.”

Key Question: Who am I?

Key Idea: I believe I am significant because I am a child of God.

Resource: Believe Storybook Bible, Chapter 5, “Identity in Christ”

Master Supplies List

- Believe Storybook Bible
- PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations
- Hole punch
- Unlined 3” x 5” cards (one per child)
- 18” lengths of yarn (one per child)
- Family Page (one per child)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in STEP 3 | Explore More:

- OPTION 1: Card stock name tags, glitter, glue, craft feathers, craft googly eyes, stickers
- OPTION 3: Blank paper (one sheet per child), crayons or markers
- OPTION 4: Crayons or markers, Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)
- OPTION 6: Two puppets
STEP 1 | Come Together (5 min)

Supplies: Unlined 3” x 5” cards, hole punch, 18” lengths of yarn (one per child, plus one for yourself)

Teacher Prep: To make name tags, write each child’s name on an unlined 3” x 5” card, then punch two holes on the top two corners and string yarn through.

NAME TAGS

• GIVE each child a name tag as they arrive. Have them put them around their necks.
• SAY, “Hello, (child’s name), I am glad to see you, (child’s name)” as you give each child their tag until all the children have arrived.
• INSTRUCT the children to gather.

REVIEW

• SAY, Let’s all take a minute to look at our name tags.
• ASK, Do any of us have names that are the same? (Take responses)
• SAY, Sometimes people have the same name, but does that mean they are the same person? (No)
• SAY, No, actually there is no other person in the whole world like you. Even if you have a twin brother or sister, there are still things that make you very special and “one of a kind.”
• SAY, There are some things we have in common with others, like hair color or a good singing voice, but no one else has the unique combination of traits that God gave you.
• CONTINUE, God made you unique and special. He loved you enough to send Jesus to die for you. So, it’s not your hair or your singing voice that makes you special; it’s being a child of God.
• SAY, Today we are going to learn about a man in the Bible who was very special to Jesus.

KEY VERSE

• REVIEW this week’s Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the children are able to say the verse from memory
• NOTE: You may also choose to review last week’s Key Verse together.

John 1:12
Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.

LESSON 5: Identity in Christ | EARLY ELEMENTARY
STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

Supplies: Believe Storybook Bible, PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations

INTRODUCTION

• SAY, The man in our story today was named Zacchaeus.
• ASK, Have you ever heard about Zacchaeus? (Take responses)
• ASK, What do you remember about Zacchaeus from other stories you have heard? (He climbed up a tree)
• SAY, Right, he climbed up a tree. So every time you hear Zacchaeus's name in the story, I want you to pretend to climb up a tree like Zacchaeus did, like this.
• DEMONSTRATE for the children how to make a climbing motion.
• GIVE children time to practice that motion.

READ CHAPTER 5

• READ chapter 5, “Identity in Christ” in the Believe Storybook Bible.
• SHOW the illustrations included with this curriculum on PowerPoint slides or printable posters.

REVIEW ABRAHAM AND SARAH

• ASK, Names have meanings. Do you know what your name means? (Take responses) ASK, Why did God give new names to Abram and Sarai? (He was rewarding their faith in him; their new names meant God was going to keep his promise and give them many descendants)
• ASK, If God gave you a new name, what name would you like him to choose? (Take responses)

REVIEW ZACCHAEUS

• ASK, What was Zacchaeus like before he met Jesus? (Bad; he took people's money; he lied)
• ASK, What problem did Zacchaeus have in the story we heard? (He could not see through the crowd; he was not tall enough to see over people)
• ASK, Why did Jesus want to spend time with Zacchaeus? (Because Zacchaeus was special to Jesus)
• ASK, Did the people of the town think that Zacchaeus was special? (No) Why? (Because he took money from them; they didn’t like him)
• ASK, How did Zacchaeus change after he spent time with Jesus? (He wanted to do good and follow Jesus)
• PRAY, Thank you, God, for knowing how special we are and for loving each one of us. Amen.
STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help children explore the lesson further.

**Option 1: God the Creator (10 min)**

**Supplies:** Pre-made name tags (one per child), glitter, glue, craft feathers, craft googly eyes, stickers.

**Teacher Prep:** You may use the name tags from STEP 1: Come Together

- SAY, When you arrived, I gave each of you a name tag. They all look the same right now. They have the same color, the same yarn, and the same size and shape, right?
- SAY, People have some similarities, too. What are some ways we are all similar? (We live in the same area; many of us are the same height; we all know a certain song)
- CONTINUE, While we have many similarities, we also have many differences that make us unique.
- ASK each child to name something that makes them unique, such as blue eyes, red hair, singing voice, snorting laugh, etc.
- SAY, Now we are going to use the craft supplies on the tables to decorate our name tags to make them “one of a kind” and unique, just like each one of us.
- GIVE children time to decorate their name tags.
- SAY, Now each name tag looks unique because you used your creativity to make it beautiful. It is unique because it is different from others’, but it is also more special because you took the time to create it just the way you want it. That’s how God feels about each of his unique children; he created you and that makes you a special child of God!

**Option 2: Remember Me (15 min)**

**Teacher Prep:** Have the children sit or stand in a circle. Explain that you are going to play a game that will help them learn how special each of their classmates is.

- SAY, We have learned that we are each special because we are children of God.
- CONTINUE, As we go around the circle, I want each of you to tell us one special thing about yourself. Each of you will repeat what the person before you said and then add something special about yourself as well.
• ALLOW the children to continue the game around the circle, helping them remember what the child before them said, then waiting for them to add their special quality.
• ENCOURAGE the children to remember that they are special and that each of their classmates is special as well because they are all children of God.

Option 3: Spread the Special (15 min)

Supplies: Blank paper (one sheet per child), crayons or markers
NOTE: This activity will help children learn how being kind can remind others that we are all special children of God.

• SAY, Sometimes we forget that we are special to God. Perhaps someone embarrassed us or made us feel bad in some way.
• ASK, Have any of you ever felt that way? (Take responses)
• SAY, Sometimes those around us are feeling that way, and they need to be reminded how special they are.
• CONTINUE, Take a moment to think of someone you may know who isn’t feeling so special lately. This could be a friend or family member or someone in your community.
• SAY, Write a note to that person or draw a picture for them, using the paper and markers, reminding them that they are special to God and that they are special to you.
• NOTE: If you have children in this group who are not able to write very well, you can remind them that a simple drawing can still remind a person that they are special, no words needed.
• GIVE children time to write and decorate notes.

Option 4: Let’s Color! (10 min)

Supplies: Crayons or markers, Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)
Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Let’s Color! sheet (one per child).

• GIVE each child a coloring page.
• PROVIDE a selection of crayons and/or markers for the children to share.
• DISCUSS this week’s Key Idea as the children color.
Option 5: Praise and Worship (15 min)

“I am a ‘C,’” by Marilynn Ham
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“Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man,” public domain

Option 6: Act It Out (10 min)

Who Are You?

The characters in this script can be played by two puppets or by a teacher, class helper, or student leader.

Characters

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>a younger child with questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie</td>
<td>an older child with the answers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional Props: Two puppets

Tim: Hello. Who are you?
Jamie: I’m Jamie. I’m a child of God.
Tim: What if you’ve been bad? Are you still a child of God?
Jamie: I’m a child of God even when I’m bad.
Tim: What if you’re sad? Are you still a child of God?
Jamie: I’m a child of God even when I’m sad.
Tim: What if you are scared? Are you still a child of God?
Jamie: I’m a child of God even when I’m scared.
Tim: What if you disobey God? Are you still a child of God?
Jamie: I’m still a child of God even when I disobey.
Tim: Would that make God sad?
Jamie: Yes, but I am still a child of God. And I would ask God to forgive me for making him sad.
Tim: How many children does God have?
Jamie: Everyone who loves him and follows him is his child.
Tim: That’s a lot of children! How does he keep up with all of them?
Jamie: Our God is a big God with enough love for everyone. You sure ask a lot of questions.
Tim: *(shrugging)* That's part of what makes me special. Maybe I'll grow up to be a journalist one day. I'll get paid to ask a lot of great questions, and then I'll write amazing stories. Can I ask you one last question, Jamie?

Jamie: Sure.

Tim: Are all of God's children special?

Jamie: Yes. God knows who we are because he made us. Did you know that there's only one you and there's only one me in this great big world of seven billion people? Did you know that there will never, ever be another person exactly like you on this planet? Say these words after me: “I'm a child of God, and he loves me just the way I am!”

Children: *(repeat)* “I'm a child of God, and he loves me just the way I am!”

*(TIM and JAMIE high-five and exit)*

**STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)**

**Supplies:** Family Page (one per child)

**Teacher Prep:** Print and photocopy the Family Page supplied with this lesson (one per child).

- GIVE each child a copy of this week’s Family Page.
- SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family what you learned about God making us his special children.
- HAVE children practice telling you about how they are special to God.
- REVIEW this week’s Key Verse as well as today’s story and Key Idea from the *Believe Storybook Bible* as you wait for the children to get picked up.
- MAKE sure each child remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.
LESSON 5: Identity in Christ | EARLY ELEMENTARY
FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 5: Identity in Christ


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How to Use This Page
This week, your family can either read the story from the Believe Storybook Bible or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember it. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile ideas provide interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk
1. When someone is doing wrong, how can you try seeing them as a special child of God? How will this help?
2. God loves you just the way you are, but he also wants you to grow. What are some ways you’d like to grow and change as a child of God?
3. What makes each person in our family unique? What makes us all special?

Living Faith

Option 1
The story of Zacchaeus is a great Bible story to act out at home. Provide your child with a safe place where he or she can pretend to be Zacchaeus climbing up into the tree. Have an adult or older child pretend to be Jesus walking by and inviting Zacchaeus to come down and spend some time with him.
Option 2

Play 20 Questions with your child, where you think of a person or animal, and your child gets to ask questions about the person’s or animal’s identity. By asking questions about what makes that person or animal special, your child can figure out its identity.

Extra Mile

- Help your child to learn this week’s Key Verse by playing Bible Memory Tag. Review your child’s Key Verse several times, and then play a round of Bible Memory Tag in which you begin the game with the adult as “It.” When you tag your child, they must recite the verse correctly. If they can, they will be “It” and get to chase you. When they tag you, you must recite the verse back.
- Help your child retain the story of Zacchaeus by reading the Bible story together a few times during the week. Have your child draw you a picture.
- Sing the song “Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man” together. You can find videos with lyrics for this song on the Internet.