

# Youth Group Lesson

**Topic:**

**IDENTITY**

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**Topic:**

Identity

**Description & Scope:**

*Identity* is defined as the collective aspect of the set of characteristics by which a thing is definitively recognizable or known, or the distinguishing character or personality of an individual.

Each person identifies oneself based on one or more characteristics that define them to a particular type - athlete, bookish, gamer, musician etc

**What are the real life challenges?**

- Being set apart or designated as one type of person - the nerd, the jock, the handsome, the princess etc - can actually be a challenge to some
- Having difficulty trying to fit in outside of the type of group identified by self
- Having trouble fitting in once your identity is damaged - For eg, if you identify yourself as an athlete and an injury prevents you from playing your favourite sport for life, what would you identify yourself as now?
- Never having satisfaction in your identity - mostly because its not permanent

**Other Sources of Information (Articles, Videos, sermons, etc.)**

<https://ministrytoyouth.com/youth-group-lessons-on-identity/> - an idea of what our identity truly is

<https://www.gotquestions.org/identity-in-Christ.html> - what does being identified in Christ look like

**What does Bible say?**

Play a game before we start.

Blind exploration - as per the example in ministry to youth resource, play as a game.

1. Blind-fold everyone playing. Get them to sit around in a circle
2. Place a big object in front of them - a blown up big plastic animal, or some other object.

3. The kids can only touch parts of the object that is closer to them. They cannot move out of their spots.
4. Allow them to describe what they are touching and try to guess what the object might be as a whole.

Explanation:

All kids coming up with different theories of what the object is proves one thing - that we cannot identify the object by only knowing a tiny portion of it blindly. In the same way, we make the mistake of finding our identity without realizing in our blindness that we only see a tiny part of the big picture. Jesus sees a lot more in us than we do ourselves.

1 Peter 2: 9, 10

“...for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. **Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people.** Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.” (New Living Translation)

What is wrong in finding yourself in material things, or things that the world recognizes are important, such as looks, your friend group etc? All of these things can be taken away in an instant. Your true identity is what is inside of you. It is at the core of who you are as a person, and it is an amazing gift from God!

We are His chosen people - God hand-picked each of us for His purpose, He loves us!

We are His royal priests - we are “royalty”, His royalty, adopted as His sons and daughters. As a priest, we have the ability to lead others to the same incredible love that God has for us.

We are God’s people - set apart for His work, to change the world through His love and grace.

This identity in God, in Christ Jesus, can never be shaken or taken away! We are a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are no longer slaves to sin. As per the song below, we are part of the family of God.

“I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God  
I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod”

### **Group Discussion:**

- In your own words, what is “identity”?
- What are some of the “false” identities that people around you cling to? (for example: John’s identity is that he is the “smart kid”)
- Why is it important to know what your identity is?
- What is dangerous about finding your identity in something that can change or be taken away?
- 1 Peter 2:9-10 touches on a few of the ways the Bible describes our identity. Can you think of any more?

### **Action & Follow-up:**

- Think about what we discussed. Do you want your identity to be in Christ?
- What would it mean to live in this world as a child of Christ?
- Think of ways you can apply Christ-like living in everyday life - give some examples. Consider changing some of your habits and behaviours to be Christ-like so that others may identify you as a child of God.

### **Prayer:**

God, grant me wisdom and knowledge to be your child in everything I do, to be like royalty, to be part of your chosen people. Even though we are all different, we identify as your children. Help us to seek you in our daily life, and to help one another grow more Christ-like in our identity. Amen.