

Middle School Discussion Guide

Healthy Purpose: For the week of August 30 - September 5, 2020

Main Thought and Scriptures:

One of the biggest things we'll face in life is figuring out our purpose. What many of us don't realize is that our purpose comes from who we are: our identity. We think, "What I do is who I am, and that determines how I live." But it's really the other way around: "Who I am determines what I do, and that affects the lives around me." The big question is, "Who do you think you are?" God helps us answer this by showing us in the Bible that when we follow Jesus, we have a new identity. We have a chance to let go of our old selves, especially the bad parts, and put on a new self that follows the example of Jesus. This is important because the Bible shows Jesus helping many people. A new identity in Christ means we are able to impact others' lives, that's part of our purpose. This identity isn't to make us the hero; it's to point others to the real hero who can help us all, Jesus Christ.

"Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. ¹⁴I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. ²⁰I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. ²²I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me." (John 17:13-23 NLT)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV)

Discussion Questions:

- Why does who you are determine what you do (instead of the other way around)? Why is this important?
- How can we remember our identity in Jesus Christ daily?
- What is something we can do to live out our identity? How could that impact someone's life in a positive way for Jesus?

Prayer Points:

- Pray that we will know who we are in Jesus Christ more.
- Pray that as people discover their purpose in Jesus, it would lead to action in helping others who don't know Jesus.