



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE FOR YOUTHS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Who Am I?

Overview

Summary

Through the *Who Am I?* You will invite students to explore their identity and how they search for it. Identity is found in and received from God, who created us as his image-bearers, unique masterpieces, and calls us to live in ways that reflect him to the world. Today, we will be contrasting the secular and biblical views of identity and discussing how looking to God is essential to knowing our identity and walking in our purpose.

Key Takeaways

1. God created us, and we are His.
2. We are God's masterpiece/work of Art.
3. God was intentional when he created us.

Scriptures

Genesis 1:26 / Psalm 100:3 / Psalm 139:13-14 / Jeremiah 1:5 / Ephesians 2:10

Lesson 1 Script

Introduction

Close your eyes and imagine with me for a moment that you are blind. Now imagine that I have asked you to describe an elephant based only on what you are feeling with your hands.

Perhaps you feel the leg, and, because of the size and the texture, you decide the elephant is a tree trunk. Or you touch the tusk and determine it is a pipe of some sort. Or you feel the tail and think it's a rope.

Now imagine your sight is fully restored, and you see that, in fact, it is not a tree trunk, or pipe, or even a rope! It is an elephant you've been describing!

As funny as that illustration may sound, we can often see ourselves and our identity in this same way - we see parts here and there, but we don't see the full picture.

When asking the question, "Who am I?," you might answer with facts about yourself: your name, your age, and your family history. You might even go a little further and share your likes, dislikes, style, and favorite things.

But when you really dig into the question of "Who am I?," you realize the answer isn't always that simple. Who you are goes deeper than your name, your background, and your personal tastes.

The question, "Who am I?" is really asking: What makes you, you? And those thoughts surrounding that question are sometimes hard to define.

The shows we watched and books we read as kids told us to follow our heart and emotions, but those messages can leave us feeling lost and confused. So if it isn't in the feelings we have or the world around us, and if it isn't in what others say about us or what we do, where do we go to find the answer to who we are? Where do we go to see the full picture of who we were made to be?

Transition

Well, what if we first looked to God, our Creator, to answer that question?

Genesis 1:26 tells us that God made us in his image and likeness; Jeremiah 1:5 says, **I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb.** We also see in Psalm 100:3, **Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Defining who we are starts with defining who God is. So, who is God?

God is the Creator of all things - good, holy, and infinite - existing at all times and for all time. He is the I Am, our loving Father, and our righteous Judge. He is the one true God and is the only one worthy of worship.

Our identity starts with recognizing that God is our Creator, and we are his creation.

Point #1: God created us, and we are his.

God created us, and we are his. He knows us deeply, intimately, and completely—more than we know ourselves. If anyone is able to shape our identity and reveal who we truly are, it's God.

But culture gives us a lot of mixed messages when it comes to identity. On one hand, we are told identity is something we can choose: our feelings, opinions, and desires.

Culture also says identity is based on things we can't control, like our appearance, our ethnicity, and our family history. I don't know about you, but I don't want my identity defined or limited by what I look like, what my last name is, or what I do well. There has to be a better option, right?

The Bible gives us a totally fresh and freeing way to look at identity, one that takes the focus off of ourselves and puts it onto the one who made us! When we begin to understand who God is, and his thoughts and plans for us, we begin to discover a clearer direction for defining who we are.

Think of it this way: When we want to find the meaning behind a piece of music, literature, or artwork, we go to the artist. We know that the maker can reveal the meaning of the creation.

In the same way, we turn to God, our Creator, to find our identity.

Point #2: We are God's masterpiece.

In Ephesians 2:10, the apostle Paul writes, **For we are God's masterpiece.** Did you catch that?

Masterpiece in the Greek is the word "poiema" – which also means workmanship. We are God's workmanship; someone he took great delight in creating. Someone he created with great purpose!

The psalmist declares in chapter 139, verses 13-14, **You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.**

Who we are, God's masterpiece and workmanship, is marvelous!

Who we are is not found in anything we do or don't do - or in the labels we are assigned by others or even assign ourselves. It is not defined by our mistakes, past trauma, struggles, or sin.

Who we are - our identity - is found in the truth that we are God's workmanship, his masterpiece that he created in his likeness!

Paul continues in Ephesians 2:10 to say, **He [God] has created us anew in Christ Jesus.** How many of you have heard that phrase before? "Created anew" or "new creation"?

God "created us anew." Let's break this down a bit using the words "new creation."

The word "new" means not a leftover. It's the beginning of a new life in Jesus.

“Creation” refers to God’s work in making you; your beginning is not an accident or random occurrence. It’s intentional and full of purpose. And this leads me to our final thought.

Point #3: God was intentional when he created us.

This means that our identity is found in being God’s creation; we are the masterful workmanship of God, created for a purpose. Ephesians 2:10 closes explaining that **God created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**

No matter what circumstance brought you into the world, or what circumstance you currently live in, YOU were made ON purpose and intended to live FOR a purpose. You are not a carbon copy or a less talented version of your siblings or parents; you have been masterfully designed to live with specific purpose as a new creation in Jesus.

Closing

When we choose to find our identity in God, we can finally find rest - rest from trying to be what others or current culture or Hollywood tells us we should be. We don’t have to work for their approval or constantly look to our changing emotions and desires to tell us who we are. Our identity is rooted in who God says we are - his creation - his masterpiece - his children. Talk about total freedom and peace!

When we come close to God, he will make himself known to us; and in knowing who he is, we find who we are.

Discussion Questions

1. What is your response to the question, Who am I?
2. Have you made the effort to find out who God is, before trying to define who you are? Explain your thoughts.