



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, how they search for it and find it. Hopefully, your students are beginning to understand that what God says about them is the basis for their identity: They are loved, forgiven, and free. Now it's time to tackle the inevitable question: So what? Today, you and your students will look at what it means to practically live out our God-given identity. Together, you'll find that becoming a new person in Christ isn't a "one and done" transaction; it happens over time, through building a relationship with him, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Key Takeaways

1. I was created to live a life of holiness
2. I was created to live a life that reflects the love of Jesus.
3. We can be sure through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scriptures

1 Peter 1:15-16 / Romans 12:1-2 / Philippians 2:1-5 / 1 Chronicles 16:11 /
Proverbs 3:5-6 / Psalm 119:105 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Lesson 4 Script

Introduction

Over the past three weeks, we've talked about how the essential human question "Who am I?" doesn't have to stay unsettled. While culture and media may lead us down a confusing maze in the quest for identity, God leads us to an answer. Our God-given identity, made possible through Jesus Christ, is that we are loved, forgiven, and free. We belong to God and can experience a new life that starts now and stretches into eternity.

But how do we practically live out our identity? As we dive into today's thought, let me start by asking you a question: Can people really change? The Bible's answer to that question is a huge yes. Over and over, we read about people whose lives were transformed, not because of their incredible willpower but because of God's power in their lives. So what does that look like?

As children of God, it is a choice. We have to choose to walk and live out our identity. But living out our new identity isn't a "one and done" transaction.

Becoming a new person in Jesus Christ happens over time and through building a relationship with him. The choice to follow Jesus is just the beginning. There will be obstacles along the way: old habits, voices from our past and present, temptations, and desires. But as we grow to know and love God, the Holy Spirit reveals more about who he is and who we are made to be.

Transition

We can trust that God will transform us, day by day, by the power of the Holy Spirit, into the people he created us to be.

As God's children, we no longer live in darkness but live in the light of his love for us. We are called to live a life that is holy, to grow closer to God, and remember that we belong to him.

But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16

Point #1: I was created to live a life of holiness.

So what does it mean to live a life of holiness?

Living a holy life happens over time and through building a relationship with Jesus. Holiness is, in fact, what sets us apart from the rest of the world and from the world's compromises.

It is not something we can accomplish on our own. As we talked about last week, we have the Holy Spirit empowering us to walk in our true identity as children of God.

For some, that may feel overwhelming - that in order to live out our identity in God we have to live in holiness. But holiness isn't perfection. Holiness is a way of life and part of worshiping God. So how do we do this? By seeking God over everything else and using our talents, bodies, and gifts to honor him. Romans 12:1-2 encourages us in this way:

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

These verses tell us not to copy the behavior of the people in the world around us but instead, to look to Jesus, the way he lived his life, and follow his example. This means we use our bodies, gifts, and identity to honor God, which is the beginning of living in holiness. Holiness is a process and part of our journey with Jesus, as we belong to him and become more like him.

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Philippians 2:1-5

Point #2: I was created to live a life that reflects the love of Jesus.

Just as we may have a physical resemblance to our family, being part of God's spiritual family means we should start to resemble him in the way we live and love others. It's part of who we are created to be and part of who we are as his children.

Philippians 2:5 tells us that we should have the same attitude and mindset of Jesus. This means, like Jesus, we should be humble and obedient, always willing to share the love of God with others. We reflect Jesus when we help a friend that is hurting. We reflect Jesus when we serve in church and outside of these four walls. We reflect Jesus when we share his message of salvation!

As we've mentioned, it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can live the life we've been created to live. We can do this by seeking God continually, going to him in prayer and reading the Bible.

We read in 1 Chronicles 16:11 that we need to **Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.** The writer of Proverbs further encourages us to **Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.** Proverbs 3:5-6

In order to do these things, we must consider implementing certain spiritual disciplines in our lives.

Point #3: I was created to live a life of spiritual discipline.

Just as athletes' condition and train for their sports, spiritual disciplines condition and train us to go out into the world and reflect the love of God to others. Here are three essential spiritual disciplines that will help you as you grow in your relationship with God.

First, we must **seek God** and trust that, when we do, we will find him. That means that when we have questions and doubts, we don't shut them down or look to the world for answers: We seek God. We bring our questions into his presence and ask him to show us the answers.

Next, we can learn about and hear God speak through his Word. Even though **reading the Bible** can seem intimidating at first, we can ask God and the Holy Spirit for his help to understand it better. We can join Bible studies and groups where we read the Word together

and apply it to our lives. The Psalmist knew this, stating, **Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105**

And finally, we can talk to God in **prayer**. We bring our praise, thanks, worries, fears, and requests to God, knowing we can talk to him about anything because he is our loving Father.

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Through seeking God, reading his Word, and praying, we can grow closer to Jesus and live out our identity as children of God.

Closing

As much as we would love to change overnight, the fact that God is willing to take a lifetime to transform us shows us how patient, loving, and forgiving he is. Until we meet Jesus face to face, God will keep showing us, day after day, how we can live for him and live out our God-given identity.

Has Jesus transformed your life? If you haven't decided to follow him, are you ready now to receive his forgiveness and walk into a new life as God's child?

[NOTE TO YOUTH PASTOR: Offer an altar call here and lead students in a sinner's prayer.]

Discussion Questions

1. How is our new identity as God's child connected to the way we treat others?
2. What are ways we can reflect the love of Jesus into the world?
3. What does it mean to be transformed? How does the Holy Spirit enable us to live a transformed life?