

Family Discussion Guide

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Video: Children's Message Video 1 - Identity
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1. We learned in the sermon that Paul was in jail while he was writing the book of the Bible called Philippians. He was in jail because he was telling others about Jesus. Talk about how Paul could be in jail for doing the “right thing,” preaching about Jesus. What are some hard things that God calls us to do that might not put us in jail, but are not easy to do? (Example: loving people who are mean or who don't agree with us, forgiving others even when they aren't sorry, obeying God's will for our lives instead of our own, etc).
2. Take turns describing your outer identity (physical attributes) and inner identity (personality traits or values). What are things you have in common? What differences do you have?
3. Tell a story of when someone treated you negatively because you were different.
4. Think of your favorite movies, shows, books, or toys. Where do you see diversity in outer identity: people with different abilities, races, and genders. Where do you see diversity in inner identity: different beliefs, ideas, and languages. Mention that ALL identities are loved by God.
5. The sermon said *“As Biblical Christians and followers of Jesus, we must view every neighbor on our planet as a beloved image-bearer of God, a broken sinner under God's righteous wrath, redeemed by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, and welcomed as a forgiven child only by faith in the victorious risen Jesus.”* Put this sentence into your own words. Do this phrase by phrase if necessary.
6. The sermon said, *“In our nation our focus must be more on our unity while celebrating our diversity without division.”* What do you think celebrating diversity looks like? What do you think keeps people from celebrating diversity? Where can you celebrate unity in diversity?
7. The sermon said we are called to join with Jesus on His mission, which includes *“fighting for justice, being a voice for the disenfranchised, defending the weak, working to release those held captive by poverty and poor education, bringing healing to broken lives, and reconciliation to fractured relationships including those between black and white.”* How can your family partner with Jesus on this mission? Which part stands out to you? What can you do to get involved? What have you already done?

End this time of family engagement and discussion with this prayer:

Father God, we praise you for making such a wonderful creation. You created people that reflect every part of your beauty. However, we as a people are damaged by sin. We repent for not seeing true identity as You do. We get caught up on things that divide us and let our own preferences get in the way of loving and caring for others. Thank you, God, for forgiving us where we have done, thought, and spoken wrong. Please give us courage to speak of the unity we share in Christ as part of your family. Use your Holy Spirit inside each of us to make us bold to love all people and put that love into action by joining Jesus on His mission in our daily lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.