



IDENTITY: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk with him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)*

We realize that you, as parents, are the primary faith influencers in a young person's life. The best disciple-making takes place when students' parents take the lead. That's why we've created this helpful guide for you to use at home with your child. It is designed to give you some basic information about what is being taught at church through *The Core: A Deep Discipleship* program, along with some helpful tools, suggestions, and questions to help you reinforce this learning at home.

Overview of the Identity Root:

It started with Adam and Eve. God created humans in his own image, unique in all creation. While God declared his other creations "good," he identified humans as "very good." Then sin entered the picture, and all people developed a warped version of their original identity, a sinner's nature in need of major restoration. Christ died on the cross and rose again to offer us a new identity, even better than the first. He took on our sin and shame so we could take on his righteousness. He identifies with us so we can find our identity in him—a redeemed identity.

Main Topics Covered:

- 1) *The Identity Intro Lesson*: This lesson introduces and sets the stage for the Identity Root. It's designed to get students thinking about who they are as God's children and followers of Christ, and how embracing this identity will affect their daily lives.
- 2) *Image of God: Why do I matter?* This lesson is all about discovering why we were made, who we are as God's children, and what gives us value. Bible Passage: Mark 5:24–34
- 3) *Spiritual Gifts: What are they and how should we use them?* Students will learn what spiritual gifts are and why we were given them in the first place. They will also explore the importance of sharing their gifts in community with other Christ-followers. Bible Passage: 1 Corinthians 12
- 4) *A Disciple's Mission: How do you know God's mission for your life?* Students will learn about a unique formula (Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission) to look at clues God has given them along the way to discover how God is leading them. Bible Passage: Matthew 9:35–10:42
- 5) *Temptation: What do I do when I'm tempted?* Students will study Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and identify how they can stand up to temptation as well. Bible Passage: Matthew 4:1–

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Questions you can ask your child:

- 1) High school can be a hard time living with who you really are. It's so easy to try to be like everyone else. Do you struggle with that? Do you know that your identity does not come from the world but from God?
- 2) What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using them now? How would you like to use them in the future?
- 3) *Note: Many groups will take spiritual gift inventory tests, and your child will have an idea of their gifts and how they may use them for the kingdom. This is a great opportunity to engage with them on a deeper level and to challenge them to use their gifts now.*
- 4) Tell me more about the Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission formula. How did it work for you? Do you have a mission right now? What do you think your mission will be later in life?

Note: You can learn more about the Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission through the book, Moving On. This is also a great resource to use with your child as they go through transitions in life. You can find the book here: <http://www.leadertreks.org/store/moving-on/>.

- 5) How do you and your friends talk about sin and temptation? Does it come up much? Why or why not? What do you do when you are feeling tempted to sin?

Note: This is a great opportunity to lavish love and encouragement on your child. Let them know that you not only love them—you like them. They are at their best when they are comfortable in their own skin, living like God intended them to be.

Activity you can do together:

Do a service project with your child. Find a place in your community where you can serve for a day that connects with your child's specific burdens and passions. This could be a food pantry, a school for children with special needs, a sports ministry, or a homeless shelter. Let them try to experience working and serving in a way that connects with their heart. This will allow them to safely experiment with service and will help them begin to create a vision and mission for their life.

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