HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

SERIES TITLE
TEACHING GUIDE
WEEK 3

MAIN SCRIPTURES:
Acts 9:1-22
Ephesians 2:10

MAIN POINT:
The more you know your Creator the more you'll discover your identity and purpose.

JESUS CONNECTION:
It's not about becoming a good person, it's about being transformed by Jesus.

THE WHAT

WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-3 min)

ME

WHO ARE YOU?

- Who am I? It's a question we've all asked. We don't usually just ask it once, though. It's a question we'll ask, and probably ask again, and maybe even continue asking for our entire lives.
- We all want to know, deep down, who we are, what we're good at, what we're not-so-good at, what makes us unique, and why we matter.
- How you answer this question matters.
- Your answer will reveal what you believe about yourself. It will influence the kind of people you hang out with. It will impact your hobbies, your interests, and which skills you choose to develop. Your answer to this question will affect your decisions about school, relationships, money, and even your future career. And it will have a pretty big impact on your faith, too.
- So who are you? That's what we are talking about this series.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: LOOK IN THE MIRROR

- *Before your program, prepare a copy of the handout for each student. Place one copy on each seat, along with a pen. If you don't have time to prep or you are virtual, ask students to use a blank sheet of paper or pull up a blank note on their phone.*
- To get started, take just a moment or two to think about your identity. Take that sheet of paper from your seat. What do you see when you look in the mirror? Take a moment to write five to ten things that you really like about yourself. Give your students a chance to write. Now write five to ten words that you don't exactly love about yourself. Give your students a chance to write.

WE

- We all have mixed feelings about our identities. Maybe you're not even sure who you are yet.
- There are things you probably take great pride in, but there are other things you might dislike or even be ashamed of. Sometimes, it's not easy to look in the mirror.

TRANSITION

- Sometimes we look in the mirror and wonder, "Who am I?"

NOTES

THE WHAT CONTINUED

TRANSITION CONTINUED

- The past two weeks we've talked about how we are searching to discover who we are and how sometimes we look in the wrong places. Sometimes we even change who we are in order to impress or fit in.
- It's not always easy to know who you are, everyone struggles with that. In high school, discovering who you are is a HUGE part of your phase of life. But rest assured God made you an AMAZING person, with an GREAT purpose, who always has a place to BELONG.

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SO WHAT CONTINUED

JESUS CONNECTION

- We don't become who God created us to be on our own strength. It takes being and growing in our relationship with God to grow into who we were created to be.
- To be in a relationship with God, you must know and believe that God sent Jesus to die on the cross to rescue you from your sin and death; you are not saved by doing good things but by having faith in Jesus Christ.
- Romans 10:9-10 says, "[9] If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."
- Once you believe in Jesus, you start the exciting new journey of becoming who God made you to be: " Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17

TRANSITION

- PS – Paul wrote those two Bible verses.
- Paul embraced the life Jesus had for him and he encourages us to do the same.

NOW WHAT

NOW that we know, HOW can we live this out? (2-3 min)

YOU

THE MORE YOU KNOW YOUR CREATOR THE MORE YOU DISCOVER YOUR IDENTITY AND PURPOSE.

- Here's what I find so interesting about Paul's life (and what I think is true for our lives, too). **Paul didn't truly discover his own identity and purpose until He first discovered His Creator.**
- But a second thing is true, too. The better Paul understood himself and his own identity, the better he understood his Creator. The more he preached, and traveled, and lived out his calling, the better he understood the God who made him.
- I think we can say it this way: Discovering who you are is connected to knowing your Creator.
- The more you get to know God, the better you'll get to know yourself. And the better you get to know the person God created you to be, the better you'll get to know Him and love Him.
- *Share an example from your own life: share one specific way that getting to know God has helped you better understand who God created you to be (have you become more patient, compassionate, generous, etc.)?*

WE

- God has tons of great plans for me, for you, for us. Let's grow closer to Him together so we can discover more and more who He created us to be.

PRAY

- Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for creating you with purpose for a purpose!
- *As you close, consider playing or performing (or asking someone else to perform) the song "Good Good Father" by Housefires. Tell your group you are playing this song because although they may not fully know who they are or what their future holds, they can fully know they are loved by the God who created them.*

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