



SERIES TITLE
DISCUSSION 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.

LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize they get to know God the more they know who they were created to be.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Sometimes, in our desire to encourage students to live lives of integrity, we encourage them to be the same person at church that they are everywhere else. While this is good advice in some ways, it can also fail to take into account the fact that it's a normal part of the high school phase for students experiment with different interests, styles, and activities as they search for their own identities. And that's not a bad thing! It's actually a healthy part of growing up. So, while our integrity and character should be consistent everywhere we go encourage your students it's ok to try out different interests, styles, and activities as they figure out who they were made to be.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

1. Share one word that describes yourself (maybe not your whole-self, but a part of who you are).
2. Now describe the person to your right in one word (you must use a different word than they used to describe themselves). If you are meeting virtually, call one student at a time and tell them who they are describing – pro tip, pick an outspoken student to go first.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it sometimes difficult to find out who you are?
 2. Do you tend to think yourself using more positive words or negative words? Why do you think that is?
 3. What are some ways our desire to belong can be dangerous?
- READ EPHESIANS 2:10 and answer the following questions:**
4. In your own words, what do you think Paul meant when he wrote that you are God's "handiwork" or "masterpiece," according to your translation?
 5. What do you think it means for God to have a "plan" or "purpose" for your life?

READ ACTS 9:1-22 and answer the following questions:

6. How did God show Himself to Paul?
7. How did Paul change?
8. What's one way getting to know God can help you get to know yourself better?

NEXT STEP

What is one thing you can do this week to know God, and yourself, better? Have your students brainstorm and share their goals together.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:1-22 NIV

“Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered.¹¹ The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

¹³ “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?”²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.”

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

Game Idea

Who Am I: Celebrity Version

IN PERSON INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write celebrity names on a post-it notes, make sure you have one for each student.
- (2) Put the post-it on each student’s head so that they don’t see the name. Have them hold the post-it on their forehead to keep it there.
- (3) Have students walk around and they can ask each other yes and no questions – for example, “Am I a singer?” They can not ask open ended questions like “What am I known for?” or “Who am I?”
- (4) Give them 3-5 minutes to figure out who they are, then have them share who they think they are and see who got it right.

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Come up with a list of celebrity names. Have 2-3 students volunteer to be “the it celebrity” for a round.
- (2) Have one of the students who is “the it celebrity” leave the Zoom call for 2 min. Tell all the other students which celebrity the “it” student will be.
- (3) Let the student back in the Zoom call and tell them they can ask 10 yes and no questions to figure out which celebrity you picked for them to be – for example, “Am I a singer?” They can not ask open ended questions like “What am I known for?” or “Who am I?”
- (4) Repeat with your other “it” students.