



IDENTITY

A Got Questions Ministries Mini Bible Study



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How to Use This Mini Bible Study

Welcome to the Got Questions Ministries Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!

In these studies you will find content questions to grow your understanding, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Look Up Qs



Reflection Qs

have eternal life through Him.

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life..
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!



Lesson 1:

IDENTITY DAY ONE

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

Genesis 1:26-27

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully
made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written
in your book
before one of them came to be.*

Psalms 139:13-16



What is the definition and meaning of identity?



Read the passages above. What do we learn about identity from them?

From www.bibleref.com/Genesis/1/Genesis-1-26.html

This statement does not mean that God created humans to resemble Him physically (John 4:24). Rather, this seems to support the idea that God endowed humans with a certain kind of awareness, one which animals and birds and fish were not given. In other words, humans would possess the capacity for reason, morality, language, personality, and purpose. In particular, the ability to use morality and spirituality are unique to human beings among God’s creations on earth. Like God, we would possess the capacity to experience and understand love, truth, and beauty.

Humans are made in God’s image in another way: as a model, or a representative. God is the Maker, and all of creation belongs to Him. He is Lord over it. However, in the moment of creation, God gives mankind the responsibility to rule over all other life He has made on the earth. In that sense, humans would stand as God’s image, God’s representatives, on earth as we rule over and manage all the rest of His creation.



Based on the passages from the previous page and the blurb above, what aspects of being made in God’s image stand out to you, and why are they significant?



How should seeing other people as being made in the image of God impact the way you treat them?



What do people allow to shape their identities today? How do those things compare to what God says about identity?



What has been influential (either positively or negatively) in shaping your identity?



Looking again at the passages you read, which statements have been significant in shaping your identity or which ones will you take to heart going forward?



As you look back on what has shaped your identity, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area that has not been shaped by what He says and to help you see and take to heart what He says about your identity.

Also, pick one or two statements from the passages about what God says about your identity. Write them down, and reflect on what they mean and how they should shape your identity. Remind yourself of these truths often this week.

Lesson 2:

IDENTITY DAY TWO

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the

one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:12-21



Read the passage above. What does this passage teach us about our identity and the impact sin has had on it?



There are a lot of contrasts expressed in this passage. What are they? Compare the truths that are a result of sin and the ones that are a result of God's work.



As you think about living in this world, in what ways do you see sin impacting identity?



What can we learn about God by His gracious and righteous response to the destruction sin brought to our identity?



How does realizing the destruction that sin brought to your identity impact your view of both sin and your identity?



We need to acknowledge the destruction that sin has on identity both generically and personally in order to see identity rightly. Take some time to reflect on what sin generically and personally has done to impact your identity. Then, thank God for the gift that He has provided and made available for sin to not have the final word on our identities.

Lesson 3:

IDENTITY DAY THREE

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:14-17



Read the verses above. What do they reveal about a person's new identity once they have turned to Christ for the forgiveness of sins?



What does it mean and look like to be a new creation in Christ?



Where in your life have you experienced changes as a result of your new identity in Christ?



What does it look like practically to no longer regard people from a worldly point of view?



Although sin brought destruction to our identity, Christ does not let sin have the final say in who we are! Praise Him for this wonderful truth! As you reflect on the ways your new identity has changed you, thank God for the ways it is impacting the way you see yourself and others.



Lesson 4:

IDENTITY DAY FOUR

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

Ephesians 2:10

*Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.*

Isaiah 64:8



Read the verses above. What do they reveal about identity?



What do these verses reveal about God's role and relationship to our identity and lives?



Why do people struggle with recognizing God's role as the Creator, Potter, and the One who has plans for us?



Where in your life are you challenged or encouraged that God is the Creator, Potter, and the One who has plans for you?



God is the Potter. We are the clay. When we get these roles reversed or we resist His continual work in shaping and molding us, our identities suffer. If there is an area where you are resisting God's work, repent and turn to Him. Allow Him to shape who you are and the good work He has for you.

Lesson 5:

IDENTITY DAY FIVE

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin

once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:5-11

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20



Read the passages above. What do they reveal about our identity in Christ?



What are some changes in identity that happen when we go from being dead in our sins to being alive in Christ?



How does our identity as dead to sin and alive to Christ change the way we live and respond to sin?



What differences are you experiencing in the way you see yourself and your sin as a result of no longer being a slave to sin but being alive to Christ?



Although we continue to sin as believers, our position toward it is different. We are not identified by our sin. We are forgiven. Christ's righteousness is imputed to us. We are no longer slaves to our own desires or to sin's power over us. We are alive to God in Christ-- we can live for Him in light of who we are in Him! This is great news! Thank the Lord for this great truth! What impact is this identity shift having on you?

Lesson 6:

IDENTITY DAY SIX

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under

Matthew 5:13-16



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about our identity as the salt and light of the earth?



According to these verses, what is the purpose of being the salt and light of the earth?



What attributes and implications of actual salt and light are important to understand as we reflect on being the salt and light of the earth?



In what ways do you see yourself as being the salt and light of the earth in your family, in your community, and in your sphere of influence? How are you practically living out those realities of who you are as a believer?



We are called to be the salt and light of the earth because Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12) and the One who preserves (saves us from our sins), gives abundant life (John 10:10), and provides the necessary nutrients to live (as the Creator). As you pray, thank God for the light and life He gives. Ask Him to show you what it means to be the salt and light of your family, your community, and your other spheres of influence. As you do, ask the Lord to reveal people and areas of your life where salt and light can be brought in.



Lesson 7:

IDENTITY DAY SEVEN

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:1-2

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39



Read the passages above. What do these verses reveal about our identity in Christ? List out who these passages say we are.



Looking at who these passages say we are as believers, how do they impact our identity?



Which of these truths of who you are in Christ challenge or encourage you the most? Why?



How is your identity shaped by knowing that nothing can separate you from the love of God?



Our identities are rooted in His great love for us, and nothing can separate us from that love. What a profound truth! How does this assurance give you hope whether you are wrestling with your identity or not? Who in your life is wrestling with identity that you can encourage with this wonderful truth?



Wrap Up

Now that you have studied seven lessons on identity, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



How has your understanding of identity changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study? What are 2-3 truths you learned about identity that are most meaningful to you?



What will you change in your life as a result of this study?



Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of identity? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?