



# Who We Are in Christ



## ADOPTED—

taken or chosen as one's own

When a person trusts in Jesus as Savior,  
God brings that person into His family as  
His own son or daughter.



### KNOW

You are who God  
says you are



### UNDERSTAND

Everyone who  
trusts in Jesus  
receives a new  
identity.



### DISCOVER

God defines the  
true identity of all  
followers of Jesus.

KEY VERSE: "BUT GOD, WHO IS RICH IN MERCY,  
BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE THAT HE HAD FOR US, MADE US ALIVE WITH CHRIST  
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES. YOU ARE SAVED BY GRACE!"  
-EPHESIANS 2:4-5



### **THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES**

Jesus said, "I am the true vine. My Father is the gardener. The gardener cuts off every branch in Me that does not produce fruit. However, if a branch is producing fruit, He prunes it (cuts off just the dead parts) so the branch can continue to produce fruit."

Then Jesus reminded His disciples they are already followers of Him. Jesus told His disciples He wanted them to remain in Him, just like a healthy branch produces fruit when it stays attached to the vine. He explained that He would remain in them, too. He pointed out that a branch broken off the vine cannot produce any fruit but must stay connected to the vine in order to produce fruit.

Again, Jesus repeated, "I am the vine." This time, however, He added that His followers were the branches. He urged them to remain in Him in order to produce much fruit. He said, "Without Me, you can do nothing. If you don't remain in Me, you are like one of the branches that is carried off to be burned up."

Jesus encouraged the believers to remain in Him and in His words. "God is glorified when you produce much fruit and show that you are My disciples," Jesus said.

— based on John 15:1-8





God defines the true identity of all followers of Jesus. When we trust in Jesus for salvation, our identity is changed and transformed by the gospel. Like fruit grows when it is connected to the vine, Christians grow to look more like Jesus when we are connected to Him. Jesus rescues us from sin and frees us to live a life that honors God. By doing what is good and right, people who trust Jesus can show that they really believe in Him.

**Key Verse:** Ephesians 2:4-5

**Key Passage:** The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-8)

### BIBLE STORY

Together read the Bible story on page 31 of your child's Activity Book and ask the following review questions.

- › **Q1:** Who is the true vine and gardener in this story?
- › **A1:** Jesus is the true vine and God the Father is the gardener (*John 15:1*)
- › **Q2:** Who does Jesus say are the branches?
- › **A2:** The branches are people who trust in Jesus. (*John 15:5*)
- › **Q3:** How did the branches produce fruit in Jesus' parable?
- › **A3:** The branches stayed connected to Jesus to produce fruit. (*John 15:4-5*)

Comment that Jesus told this parable or story about the vine and branches to help His disciples understand that they are now transformed, or changed because they trust in Jesus. Jesus referred to their hearts changing—their identity.

### DEEPER STUDY

Read Ephesians 2:1-5 together and discuss the following questions.

- › **Q1:** What does God teach you through these verses?
- › **A1:** All people sin against God and are separated from Him, but God provided Jesus so we can be saved through grace
- › **Q2:** What does the word adopted mean?
- › **A2:** Adoption is when God welcomes us into His family as His children.
- › **Q3:** How can Christians grow to look more like Jesus?
- › **A3:** By obeying God's Word, saying no to sin with the help of the Holy Spirit, and loving others like Jesus loves Christians can show others we really believe in Jesus.

### PRAY AND JOURNAL

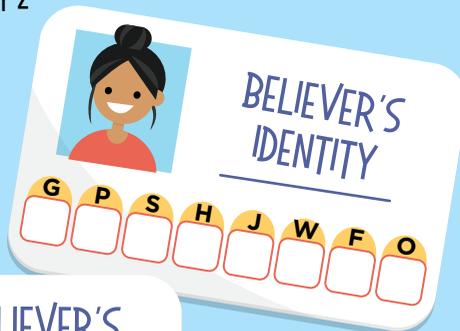
Pray together, asking God for His help to abide in Him, say no to sin, and love others like Jesus loves.

Encourage your child to complete the daily pages in the activity book this week. Be available to answer any questions throughout the week.

**TRUE IDENTITY**

Each identity card describes something about all believers. Write the letter that comes before each letter in the alphabet to find some of those descriptions.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



**DIGGING DEEPER**

Read Ephesians 2:4-5. List what is true about God and list what is true about you.

GOD:

YOU:

According to these verses, how is a person saved when he trusts Jesus as Savior and Lord? Unscramble these five words to find out if you are right.

OUY ERA VASDE YB RCGAE



**MY DAILY JOURNAL**

A journal is a place to keep track of your thoughts, feelings, questions, answers, and prayers. During the study, these pages will guide you to use your Bible, to think about what you read, and to give you suggestions for prayer.



**READ JOHN 15:1**

What are some things you know a gardener does? .....

Jesus used a parable or story when He described His Father as the gardener. Think about how close the relationship is between Jesus and God. What words come to mind when you think about that relationship? .....

Talk to God with a praise prayer, naming good things about Him. Make notes here if you want. ....



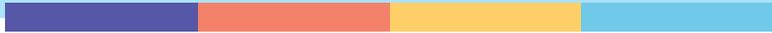
**READ JOHN 15:2-4**

Jesus told about the vine and branches to encourage believers to remain in Him—to continue growing to look more like Jesus.

Look at these phrases. Circle the ones that mean the same as **REMAIN IN**.

- CONNECTED TO
- APART FROM
- STAY WITH
- UNITED WITH

Reading the Bible, praying, thinking about Jesus and God, and choosing to obey are ways to remain in Jesus. Talk with God, asking Him to help you stay connected and united with Him. ....



**READ JOHN 15:5-6**

Who is Jesus speaking to in these verses? To find out, use an alphabet code where each number stands for a letter, in order, of the alphabet.

2	5	12	9	5	22	5	18	19
B								

The fruit Jesus taught about was not apples and oranges. The fruit of believers is bringing people to learn about and trust Jesus. Good fruit also means growing in Jesus and trusting Him more.

Pray, thanking Jesus that He helps you do these things when you stay united with Him.....

.....  
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**READ JOHN 15:7-8**

You might think verse 7 means a believer can ask for anything and get it. Instead, when a person is truly connected to and united with Jesus, the things he wants to ask God for change. A believer wants to ask God for the things Jesus wants to happen. What kind of things might that be?.....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Remember that Jesus wants what is best for you. He has a good plan for your life to worship Him, love Him, and bring Him glory.

Today, talk to God about ways you can live in a way to love God and bring Him glory. Thank God that you can always talk to Him about anything.....

.....  
.....



**READ EPHESIANS 2:4-5**

Think about the meaning of these words you read. Decide what each one means. Draw a line from each word to its meaning. (The answers are at the bottom of the page.)

GRACE  
FAITH  
MERCY

NOT RECEIVING PUNISHMENT YOU DESERVE  
RECEIVING WHAT YOU DO NOT DESERVE  
TRUST OR BELIEF

What wonderful gifts God gives to us! Thank Him for each of these blessings.....  
.....  
.....



Grace (2), Faith (3), Mercy (1)

