

Living Out Our Identity



IDENTITY IN CHRIST—

Who God says you are

When a person becomes a Christian, her identity is changed. The person looks the same on the outside, but she is a different person in the ways she thinks, feels, and acts.



KNOW

We are responsible for our choices.



UNDERSTAND

Christians still sin because we have hearts that want to sin, but we can say no to sin by asking God for help.



DISCOVER

As disciples we grow in our faith and knowledge of Jesus.

KEY VERSE: "IN WHICH YOU PREVIOUSLY LIVED ACCORDING TO THE WAYS OF THIS WORLD, ACCORDING TO THE RULER OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, THE SPIRIT NOW WORKING IN THE DISOBEDIENT. WE TOO ALL PREVIOUSLY LIVED AMONG THEM IN OUR FLESHLY DESIRES, CARRYING OUT THE INCLINATIONS OF OUR FLESH AND THOUGHTS, AND WE WERE BY NATURE CHILDREN UNDER WRATH AS THE OTHERS WERE ALSO." -EPHESIANS 2:2-3



PETER DENIED JESUS AND WAS FORGIVEN

On the night before Jesus was crucified, Peter shared the Passover supper with Jesus and the other disciples. Jesus said, "Peter, Satan will test you, but I have prayed that your faith will not fail." Jesus encouraged Peter to come back to the disciples afterward and to help them be faithful.

Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison or to die."

Jesus said, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you even know Me."

Later that night, Jesus was arrested. Peter followed and waited outside. A servant girl said, "This man was with Jesus." Peter quickly said, "I don't know Him!" Someone else said, "You're one of His followers!" Peter said, "No, I am not!"

A third person said, "He is from Galilee. He was with Jesus." Peter said, "I don't know what you are talking about!" Just then, the rooster crowed. Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Peter ran away, crying over what he had done.

But the story isn't over! After Jesus' resurrection, Peter and other disciples were fishing. They had not caught any fish all night long. At sunrise, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't recognize Him. Jesus told the men to throw their net on the other side of the boat to find fish. As soon as they did, the net was full of fish!

One of the disciples said, "It is the Lord!" Peter jumped into the water and hurried ashore before the others. The men ate breakfast on the shore with Jesus.

Three times, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Three times, Peter answered, "Yes. You know I do!" Three times Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep, meaning for Peter to take care of Jesus' followers.

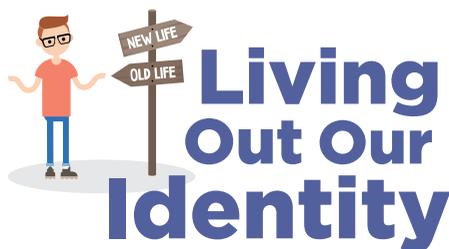
Three times Peter had denied knowing Jesus and now three times Jesus asked if Peter loved Him. Three times Jesus told Peter there was still work for him to do.

Later, Peter was with the other disciples in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in many languages. When people wondered what was happening, Peter preached to the crowd. He told them about Jesus. He begged the listeners to believe in Jesus as Savior. About 3000 people became believers that day!

Years later, when Paul wrote a letter to the Colossians, he urged believers to live lives that were true to what Jesus and the Scripture taught. Paul challenged the people to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. "Do everything in the name of Jesus," Paul wrote.

-based on Luke 22:31-34; 54-62; John 21:1-19; Acts 2, Colossians 3





Some people think the Bible is mostly just rules about what to do and what not to do. While there certainly are instructions about how to live, the Bible is not just a list of rules God wants us to follow. The gospel transforms us from the inside out. Our minds and hearts change to understand God better and love Him more, and then our behavior changes because of our new thoughts and new desires.

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:2-3

Key Passage: Peter Denied Jesus and Was Forgiven (Luke 22:31-34; 54-62; John 21:1-19; Acts 2)

BIBLE STORY

Together read the Bible story on page 47 of your child's Activity Book and ask the following review questions.

- › **Q1:** What did Peter do three times before the rooster crowed?
- › **A1:** Peter denied Jesus. (*Luke 22:54-60*)
- › **Q2:** When Peter realized that he had denied Jesus, what did he do?
- › **A2:** Peter went outside and wept bitterly. (*Luke 22:62*)
- › **Q3:** What question did Jesus ask Peter three times?
- › **A3:** "Peter, do you love me?" (*John 21:15, 16, 17*)
- › **Q4:** How did Peter answer Jesus' questions?
- › **A4:** "Yes, Lord. You know I love You." (*John 21:15, 16, 17*)
- › **Q5:** What did Peter do when people heard the disciples speaking in many languages?
- › **A5:** He stood up and preached to the people, telling them that Jesus was the Messiah. (*Acts 2:14*)

DEEPER STUDY

Read Ephesians 4:22-24 together and discuss the following questions.

- › **Q1:** What did Paul mean when He talked about the "old self"?
- › **A1:** Paul meant that Christians have a new identity in Jesus.
- › **Q2:** What does it mean to put on the "new self"?
- › **A2:** Putting on the "new self" means choosing actions that look more like Jesus. Our minds and hearts change to understand God better and love Him more, and then our behavior changes because of our new thoughts and new desires.
- › **Q3:** What does verse 24 teach us about this "new self"?
- › **A3:** The "new self" was created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of truth.

PRAY AND JOURNAL

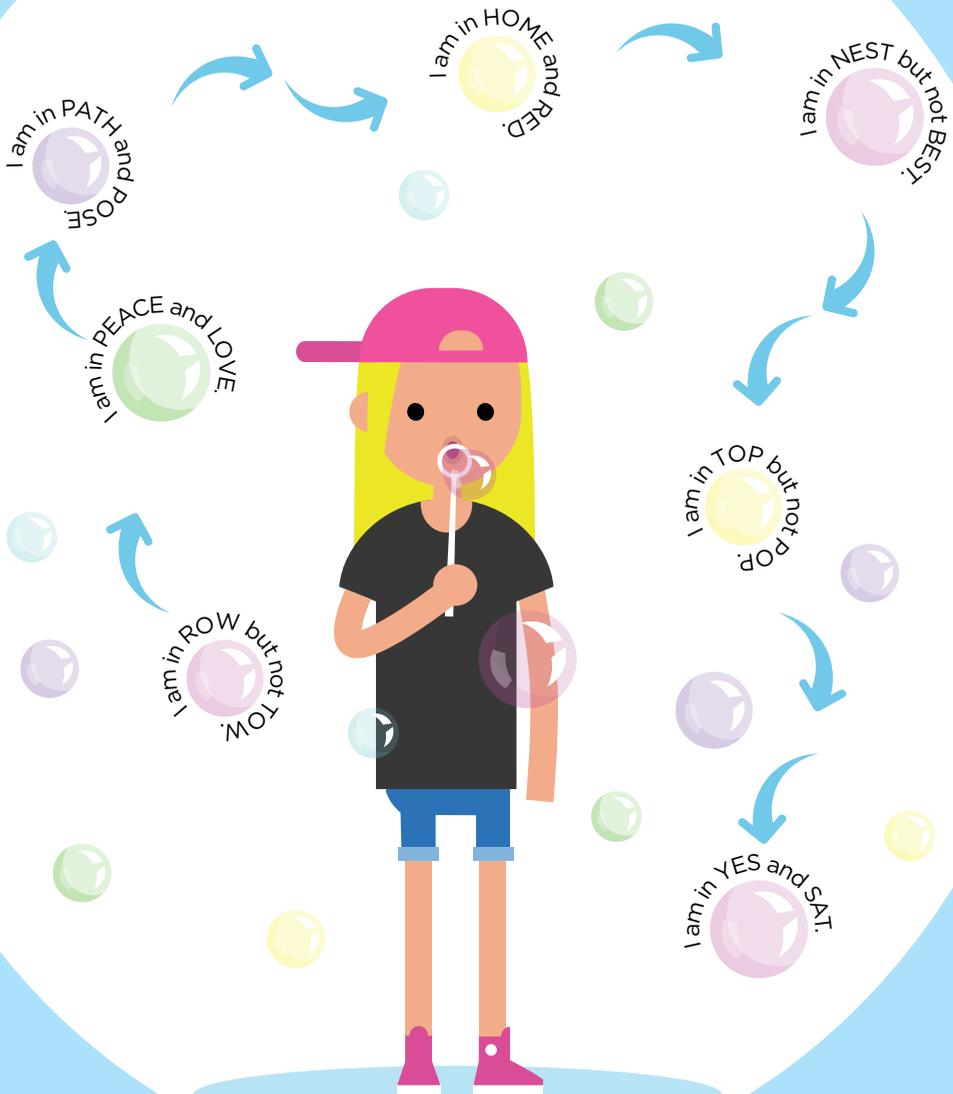
Pray together, thanking God for teaching your child what it looks like to live out the Christian life. Praise God for always forgiving us of our sin and sending the Holy Spirit to help guide us as we live for God's glory.

DISCOVER THE BUBBLE

Use the bubbles to help you discover another word that means to turn from sin and turn to Jesus. Read the clues and write the correct letter in the bubble. Then write the letters in order below.

WHEN A PERSON ADMITS HIS SIN TO GOD AND TURNS AWAY FROM THE SIN,

HE



NUMBER MATCH

Match each question with the correct answer.

HOW MANY TIMES DID JESUS
ASK PETER A QUESTION?

III

HOW MANY TIMES DID PETER
ANSWER JESUS?

THREE

HOW MANY TIMES DID JESUS
TELL PETER HE HAD WORK
TO DO?

3

HOW MANY TIMES DID PETER
DENY KNOWING JESUS?

3

What do the answers to these questions make you think?



DIGGING DEEPER

Read Ephesians 4:25. What does the verse tell is a wrong way to act? What right way is mentioned?

Read Ephesians 4:29. Which action is right and which one is wrong?

Read Ephesians 4:32. What actions are listed here?

Becoming a Christian does not mean that a person never sins again. Christians still sin because we have hearts that want to sin, but we can say no to sin by asking God for help. When Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.



DIGGING DAILY

Digging in the Bible means...

- reading Bible verses,
- thinking about what the verses mean,
- discovering what God wants you to know.

At the end of each week’s study, you will have a page to use privately as you talk to God in prayer.

Each day will have a Bible passage for you to read and think about. Each day will also have space for you to journal your thoughts, feelings, and questions to God. Now, get digging!



READ LUKE 22:31-34

Simon is another of Peter’s names. What did Peter promise to do for Jesus? Jesus warned Peter that he would tell others he didn’t know Jesus. Not one time, but three times!

Peter wanted to do what was right. What are some things you want to do that are right but might be hard?

No one always makes right choices. One good plan is to ask God to help you make right choices.

When you pray today, ask God for help with anything you have trouble doing. He is always ready to hear and to help.



READ LUKE 22:54-57

The very same night that Peter promised to go with Jesus even if he went to prison, Jesus was arrested. Peter waited outside. Who asked Peter if he knew Jesus according to verse 56?

Did Peter tell the truth? YES NO

Why might Peter have lied to the servant?

When might be a time that kids today would be afraid to tell someone about Jesus?.....

.....

.....

Jesus knows people are sometimes afraid, but He has promised to be with them. Talk to God today and ask who He wants you to tell about Him.

.....

.....

.....



READ JOHN 21:15-17

The story in these verses happened after Jesus had risen from the dead. His disciples had seen Him a few times. Now the disciples were on the shore of the lake. They had breakfast with Jesus. Then Jesus asked Peter a question.

What would you say if someone asked you if you loved Jesus?.....

.....

.....

.....

Peter did love Jesus even though he felt terrible about denying Him. Jesus gave Peter work to do. He was to take care of Jesus' followers.....

.....

.....

God has a plan for you too! You might not know all the plan yet, but you do know Bible verses about how God wants you to act. What are some things you know God wants you to do?.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Thank God today that He has a plan for you.





DAY

4

READ ACTS 2:1-4

What happened after the wind from heaven came?.....

Peter was one of the disciples in the room when the Holy Spirit came to them. Everyone began to preach in other languages. Read Acts 2:14 to find out what Peter did next. He.....

Peter was no longer afraid to tell anyone He knew Jesus. He was glad to tell the good news of Jesus. Read Acts 2:41. How many people were baptized that day to show they believed in Jesus?

2,000

3,000

4,000

Thousands of people joined the disciples and others in believing and trusting in Jesus. How had Peter's choices changed from the time he denied Jesus?

What are some things you want to talk to God about in prayer?.....



DAY

5

READ EPHESIANS 4:32

In this verse, Paul mentioned three words about how Christians should act. Fill in the blanks:

Be..... and..... to one another,..... one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

What are some kind actions you have done today?.....

Who are some people you could be kind, caring, and forgiving to in your home?.....

What about at school?

Talk to God about what you want to do. Ask His help to be kind, caring, and forgiving.....

