



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.

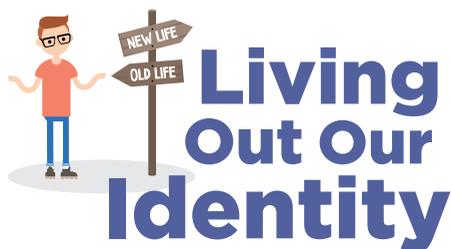
Three times Peter had denied knowing Jesus and now three times Jesus asked if Peter loved Him. Three times Jesus told Peter there was still work for him to do.

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

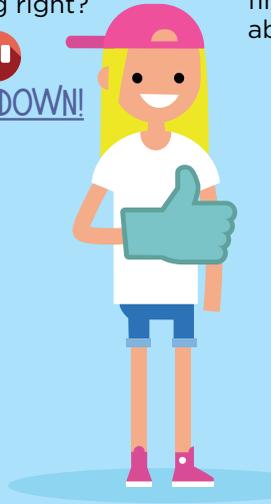
Pray together, thanking God for teaching your child what it looks like to live out the Christian life. Praise God for always forgiving us of our sin and sending the Holy Spirit to help guide us as we live for God's glory.

DIGGING DEEPER

Locate Ephesians 4:17-32 in your Bible. Read the verses. As you read, list the things a Christian should try to stop doing under the “Thumbs Down” column. List things a Christian should try to do under the “Thumbs Up” column. Which do you think is harder: to stop doing something wrong or to start doing something right?

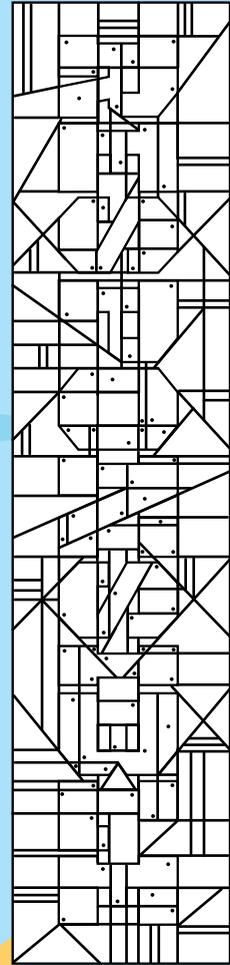

THUMBS UP!


THUMBS DOWN!



ABOUT ME

Use a colored marker or pencil to shade in all of the shapes that contain a dot. Use the word you discover in the sentence. You will find out something about yourself!



PETER AND JESUS

What question did Jesus ask Peter three times?

How many times did Peter answer Jesus?

How many times did Jesus tell Peter he had work to do for God?

How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus?

What do the answers to these questions make you think?

Hint: The words surrounding the questions give you the answers!

I AM
FOR MY CHOICES.



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 LUKE 22:31-34

Jesus used Peter's other name here. What name is it?

Jesus knew something about Peter that Peter didn't know. Look in verse 34 for what it is.....

Peter thought he was ready to follow Jesus—even to die or go to prison. Peter really meant what he said. He intended to keep his promise, but Jesus knew what was going to happen.

Today, praise God for knowing what is happening and what will happen. Ask Him to help you do your best to always be ready to follow Jesus.....



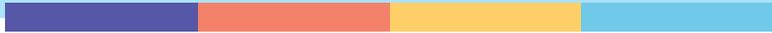
READ LUKE 22:54-62

Which of these emotions do you think Peter had during these events?

- FEAR ANGER SADNESS JOY NERVOUSNESS**

Which emotion do you think Jesus had?.....

Peter knew he had done wrong. He knew, and Jesus knew. He was truly sorry for what he had done. That is the first part of repentance. The second part is turning to Jesus for help.



When you pray today, think about your day. Did you do, say, or think anything that was not good? Think about the fact that Jesus knows what you did. If you mean it, tell God about your sorrow over what you did.....

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READ JOHN 21:15-17

Write Jesus' question to Peter here:.....

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Write Peter's answer to Jesus here:.....

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Write Jesus' directions to Peter here:.....

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God can always use a person who loves, trusts, and follows Him. Even if that person has sinned, God can forgive him and give him joy in his life. However, if the person sinned but never talks to God about it or asks forgiveness, his life will never be as full.....

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Today, thank God for the fact that He restores people when they ask. Ask Him to help you remember to ask Him for forgiveness when it is needed.....

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DAY

4

READ ACTS 2:1-4

Peter and the disciples were in a room together when the Holy Spirit came on them. What could people see when this happened?

What two things could people hear?

Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit—and He came in a way no one could miss! People in the city wondered how they could hear the disciples preaching in all those languages. When confusion arose, Peter stood to speak. He was no longer afraid to say he knew Jesus. Look in Acts 2:22 to find what Peter had to say now.

Ask God to give you boldness to tell others about Him. Ask God to give you courage to openly obey Him no matter the circumstances.



DAY

5

READ EPHESIANS 4:32

This verse shows what you are supposed to do as a Christian. What are some ways you can be kind and caring to your friends?

What are some ways you can be kind and caring to people who are not your friends?

How can you care for someone who lives with you?

What does Paul mention in the verse as the reason that you should be kind, caring, and forgiving?

Pray today thanking God for His forgiveness and asking Him to help you forgive others.

