



DEEP DISCIPLESHIP IDENTITY: A guide for parents

IDENTITY

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:6–7*

OVERVIEW OF THE IDENTITY ROOT:

It started with Adam and Eve. God created humans in his own image, unique in all creation. While God declared his other creations “good,” he identified humans as “very good.” Then sin entered the picture, and all people developed a warped version of their original identity, a sinner’s nature in need of major restoration. Christ died on the cross and rose again to offer us a new identity, even better than the first. He took on our sin and shame so we could take on his righteousness. He identifies with us so we can find our identity in him—a redeemed identity.

THE PARENT GUIDE:

We realize that you, as parents, are the primary faith influencers in a young person’s life. The best disciple making takes place when students’ parents take the lead. That’s why we’ve created this helpful guide for you to use at home with your child. It is designed to give you some basic information about what is being taught at church through the Deep Discipleship program, along with some helpful tools, suggestions, and questions to help you reinforce this learning at home.

MAIN TOPICS COVERED:

- 1) **The Identity Intro Lesson:** This lesson introduces and sets the stage for the Identity Root. It’s designed to get students thinking about who they are as God’s children and followers of Christ, and how embracing this identity will affect their daily lives.
- 2) **Image of God: Why do I matter?** This lesson is all about discovering why we were made, who we are as God’s children, and what gives us value. Bible Passage: Mark 5:24–34
- 3) **Spiritual Gifts: What are they and how should we use them?** Students will learn what spiritual gifts are and why we were given them in the first place. They will also explore the importance of sharing their gifts in community with other Christ-followers. Bible Passage: 1 Corinthians 12

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Deep Discipleship is brought to you by LeaderTrekks, where we’re all about partnering with youth workers to make disciples and build leaders. So as you use this resource give us a call if you have any questions or feedback. We want you to be totally ready as you do the hard work of digging deep into student’s lives and influencing them for the Kingdom. You can also check out www.leadertreks.com for more great youth ministry resources.





- 4) **A Disciple's Mission: How do you know God's mission for your life?** Students will learn about a unique formula (Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission) to look at clues God has given them along the way to discover how God is leading them. Bible Passage: Matthew 9:35–10:42
- 5) **Temptation: What do I do when I'm tempted?** Students will study Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and identify how they can stand up to temptation as well. Bible Passage: Matthew 4:1–11

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- 1) High school can be a hard time living with who you really are. It's so easy to try to be like everyone else. Do you struggle with that? Do you know that your identity does not come from the world but from God?
- 2) What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using them now? How would you like to use them in the future?

Note: Many groups will take spiritual gift inventory tests, and your child will have an idea of their gifts and how they may use them for the kingdom. This is a great opportunity for you to engage with them on a deeper level and to challenge them to use their gifts now.

- 3) Tell me more about the Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission formula. How did it work for you? Do you have a mission right now? What do you think your mission will be later in life?

Note: You can learn more about the Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission through the book, Moving On. This is also a great resource to use with your child as they go through transitions in life. You can find the book here: <http://www.leadertreks.org/store/moving-on/>.

- 4) How do you and your friends talk about sin and temptation? Does it come up much? Why or why not? What do you do when you are feeling tempted to sin?

Note: This is great opportunity to lavish love and encouragement on your child. Let them know that you not only love them—you like them. They are at their best when they are comfortable in their own skin, living like God intended them to be.

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO TOGETHER:

- 1) The following secular video features only women and deals with superficial beauty, but the lessons in it are powerful and can create great discussion for both young women and young men. Often we see ourselves—not only our exteriors, but also who we are on the inside—as seriously flawed. We see ourselves as totally different from how others see us. We also don't live in our true identity as children of God: loved, accepted, and cherished by him.

Shorter YouTube Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qo_JiKi8ezI

Full Videos and More of the Story: <http://realbeautysketches.dove.us/>

- 2) Do a service project with your child. Find a place in your community where you can serve for a day that connects with your child's





specific burdens and passions. This could be a food pantry, a school for children with special needs, a sports ministry, or a homeless shelter. Let them try to experience working and serving in a way that connects with their heart. This will allow them to safely experiment with service and will help them begin to create a vision and mission for their life.

