

PARENT/STUDENT IDENTITY GUIDE

5th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have a conversation with your son or daughter about identity in Christ.

THE 411

Our children live in a world where they are constantly being told what is wrong with them. They are too short, too tall, too fat, too skinny, they aren't athletic enough, they don't get good enough grades, and their room isn't clean enough. With all these outside voices telling them they are flawed they don't get a clear picture of who God created them to be. Preteens are soon entering the world of junior high school, and they will feel the pressure more than ever to "just fit in." It's important that we take time to remind them that they are perfect just the way God created them and that they can find acceptance in Christ.

SUGGESTION

Dust off your old photos and try to find some of your old clothes up in the attic. Take a moment to remember what your identity was when you were the age of your child. Did you dress a certain way and have the coolest hair style? Or did you find your identity in a sport or a band? Take your child to a place that you would have hung out when you were that age – the basketball court or maybe the local skating rink. Then take time to share what you thought was so important when you were that age and perhaps share an embarrassing story or two of what you did to try and fit in with a certain group of friends. Use the discussion suggestion below to help guide your conversation.

DISCUSSION

- ASK:** Why do you think people choose to dress the way they do?
What does the way people dress tell you about who they are?
What do someone's activities tell you about who they are?
Do you think people can take on a certain identity based on the way they dress or the activities they participate in?

- SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Sometimes people begin to find their identity in the way they dress or in the activities they participate in. To some degree this is OK, because the way we dress and the sports we play reflect our personalities. But this can become a problem if you get your identity in earthly things. For example, a basketball player who finds his identity and worth in basketball becomes lost and doesn't know what to do when he isn't good enough to make the basketball team in high school. I want you to find community and enjoy the friends you choose and the activities you participate in, but I want you to recognize that you don't get your value in those things. You get your value from God, because He created you to be special.



READ: Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

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

Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

“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.”

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

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

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

God created you in His image and He thinks you are perfect just as He created you. In fact, like that last verse says, you are His handiwork, His masterpiece, and He has created you for a purpose.

ASK:

Can you think of any special talents God has given you?

Parents: make sure you spend time sharing what special talents and characteristics you see in your student. They are dying to be told that you think they are special.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

Over the next few years, you are going to feel pressure to change who you are in order to fit into certain groups. Or you might even think you need to change something about yourself to be accepted. (Parents, if you did this when you were your child’s age, share an example.) I want you to know that God created you to be special, and you don’t need to change who God created you to be to be special. You are perfect just like God created you to be. I know that in middle school most of the pressure is to fit in and be popular, but I want to remind you that fitting in and being popular isn’t what is most important. What matters is that you live as God has called you to live. I love you and God loves you just the way you are.

PRAY

Spend some time praying that God will give our children the strength to stand up to the pressures they will face in middle school. Also ask God to give them the confidence to know that they were created in His image and they are created for the good works that He has prepared for them to do.

