

youthSource Bible Study

Identity Theft

By Rebekah Freed

Week 1

Intro to Identity (5 minutes)

QUESTION TO ASK: What is identity? Why is it important?

QUESTION: This series is called "Identity Theft" and it's not talking about someone actually stealing your name and social security number, but in a more emotional and spiritual sense. What might identity theft look like in those areas?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: There are TONS of verses about identity but for this morning we're going to look into a passage that is FILLED with statements about the identity God gives us as his children. As we see what our identity IS, that will help us figure out how our world, culture, and Satan, attempt to steal it, and then how to protect ourselves against it. Let's start in prayer and then we'll jump in.

PRAY TO START TIME TOGETHER.

Digging into God's Word (20-25 minutes)

SET THE STAGE: In a minute you're going to look at some Scripture in small groups. To set the stage let's see what we can figure out about the book of Ephesians and the context.

NOTES TO SHARE/DISCUSS: Read Ephesians 1:1 – Who is Paul talking to? Why does this matter?

This happens after Jesus has died and ascended into heaven and they're starting the church. Ephesus was one place they had started a church and this was a letter back to the church. We're going to look at verses 3-14. When we think about context, where does this fall in the letter? What might that mean?

IN SMALL GROUPS:

Read through Ephesians 1:3-14 (sheet provided) and discuss the following questions:

- Circle or list below all the statements that say anything about the identity of the Christ-followers in Ephesus. Even if you're not exactly sure what something means right now, write it down anyway.
e.g. Verse 3 - we are united with Christ, or vs 12 - designed to bring God praise and glory
Some will be clearly stated and some might take a little more to think through. Work together and see what you can find.
- Look back through the list you made...
 - Are there any you don't know what they mean? Talk about them together see if you can figure out what they mean.
 - Which one stands out to you most personally and why?

- Which one of these things would you struggle the most to believe about yourself.
- Are there any other things you can think of that you've maybe heard over the years or have read in Scripture that are true about our identity in Christ? In other words... who we are because of what Christ has done for us?
e.g. The plans God has for me. I have a purpose in this world. I'm worth dying for. etc.

Large Group Discussion and Teaching (20-25 minutes)

QUESTION: What are some of the things you found in this passage? Where there any that you didn't know what it meant?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Now I want us to flip the script and think for a minute... what are some of the messages we hear around us all day every day, perhaps that are opposite of these messages?
e.g. I'm not good enough. You need to do better or be better. (Collect Ideas)

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: There are potentially more, but I've found they can somewhat fall into four categories... four "identity thieves," if you will... **STUFF... SUCCESS... STATUS... STABILITY**

Stuff – If I had more or better things, I'd be happy. I'm defined by what I have.

Success – If I could do that as well as they can, then I'd be happy. I am defined by what I do or how I measure up compared to other people.

Status – If I was friends with them, then I'd be happy. I need to be prettier. I would be cool if _____. If I could do something that actual matters in the world, then I'd have value. The only thing that matters is if people see me.

Stability – If my life was different, I'd be happy. Also, I need to act like everything's fine, even if it's not. I have to be strong

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Let's talk about each of these a little more.

STUFF – This is where we feel like "All that matters is what you have." - Where do you see this in the lives of teenagers today? Where do you think this lie comes from?

SKILLS – This identity theft says, "All that matters is how successful you are." What are places this lie might creep in? *e.g. school work, athletics, comparing ourselves to others*

STATUS – "All that matters is that people notice me." - What about this statement makes it hard to live in the identity God has given us?

STABILITY – "All that matters is feeling or looking like everything is fine." - One of the hardest things about this statement is that rarely is everything fine in our lives. Why do you think we feel pressure to look put together, and that everything is okay in life when we all know it's not?

ONE MORE – There's one more category that seems to flow out the other four. I don't have a good "S" word for it, but it's kind of where we fall when we realize that those other four things don't live up, but we don't know wat to do... and that's where we end up in despair simply saying, Well, I

guess this is just the way I am and there's nothing I can do about it. We've tried looking to all those things for our identity and they've left us unsatisfied and we're not sure what to do about it.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: One important thing to note is that most of these things aren't bad in and of themselves. It's a good thing to want to do well in school. God has given us gifts and abilities and we should use them. It's okay to desire some stability in life. The problem comes in when we believe that one or more of these things is the only thing that matters in life. It's the extremes that get us in trouble.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: We're going to look at these in more detail in next week, but as we continue to process these things, I want to tell a story I heard from a pastor recently. He was working in the kitchen one day when one of his children ran in and said, "Emergency Dad! It's a 'mergency!" The dad tried to calm him down and figure out what was going on but the kid continued running around the room... "'Mergency! 'Mergency!" Finally the dad got more information out of the kid: "JoJo is eating her poop!" The dad ran off with his son to find 18-month-old JoJo as he yelled for his wife, "'Mergency, Amy, it's a 'mergency!"

They found JoJo, and sure enough she had stuff all over her face. The sight was enough to make the dad run into the bathroom where he ended up puking at the thought and sight of his daughter eating her own poop. Around that time his wife came in only to discover that JoJo was not actually covered in and eating her poop; it was a fudge covered oreo, that only LOOKED like poop.

Here's the thing... the dad THOUGHT his daughter was eating poop. While that was a lie, thinking that it was true was enough to make him actually physically ill.

That truth carries over into our lives... **A lie that is believed to be true will affect you as if it were true.**

A lie about your identity, when believed, will impact **everything** you do even if you don't want it to. If we believe we're not worth love... we will find it really hard to let anyone love us or let ourselves love others.

If we believe we have to have stuff to make us feel happy, we will always be trying to get more things.

If we believe that having lots of friends or being cool or getting good grades is the most important thing in the world, our actions will reflect our efforts to attain that.

Satan knows this truth as well and that's why telling us lies is one of his biggest tactics. He knows that he can completely hijack our identity as well as our actions and behavior, just by getting us to believe one little lie.

John 10:10 says it this way, "The thief (Satan) comes only to steal, kill, and destroy." That's his only desire, and lying to us is one of his most powerful weapons.

But here's what's awesome:, the rest of that verse quotes Jesus saying, "But I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly!" Jesus longs for us to live in and enjoy a life filled with all those things we talked about back in the Ephesians passage. And because of what Jesus has done

for us, we can. That's why He came, to give us true, abundant, full life, free of all the lies, confident in our identity.

Wrap Up (10 minutes)

As we wrap up, we're going to take some time to reflect on what lies Satan might be trying to get you to believe. You can use the questions on the bottom of the page where the Ephesians passage is if that's helpful for you to process. We'll come back together in a few minutes to close.

Give at least a few minutes for them to pray on their own. After this, finish by saying:

As we close in prayer, I'm going to ask if you might each be bold enough to speak out loud one truth that you need Jesus' help to believe today. You can simply read the one sentence prayer in the last question on the sheet if you want. We always want this to be a safe place, so if you don't feel comfortable saying your specific prayer out loud, simply say something like, *Jesus help me to believe your truth.*

Let's pray. **Leader starts and then goes around the circle, letting each person share their prayer asking God to help them believe what's true about them and ends with a prayer over the group asking God to teach us what is true about our identity.**

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

³All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.^[b] ⁷He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

⁹God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God,^[c] for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

¹²God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own^[d] by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

WHICH AREA DO I STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST: STUFF, SUCCESS, STABILITY, SKILLS?

ONE LIE I OFTEN HEAR/FEEL RELATED TO THAT AREA IS:

ONE TRUTH I NEED TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK:

FINISH THIS PRAYER FILLING IN THE BLANK WITH THE TRUTH ABOVE:

Jesus, help me believe

WEEK 2

Identity Game (5 minutes)

Print the names of famous people on return address labels. As people come in, put one on each person's back as a name tag. The goal of the game is to ask yes or no questions only to help figure out who you are supposed to be. *(If needed, give examples as they apply to the people you chose. For example, if some of the people in play aren't alive a good question to ask is simply, "Am I still alive?")*

Recap and Jumping into This Week (10 minutes)

After everyone figures out "who they are" ask one or more of these questions:

- What were some of the types of things that helped you figure out who you are?
- What do those types of things tell us about the concept of identity? (Reference conversation last week about what identity even is).
- Did anyone have an experience where what something someone said led them off track for a while? Maybe incorrect information, or simply their uncertainty in answering?

Let's pray and then we'll talk some more. – OPEN IN PRAYER

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: As we jump back into week 2 of our Identity Theft Series, I am wondering about how people might identify us. Hopefully we could all answer "yes" to the "Is this person still alive?" question, but beyond that, our answers might be all different.

Last week we looked at Ephesians 1 and found all kinds of things that are true about our identity. Things like...

- We are loved
- We are chosen
- We are adopted
- We have an inheritance in heaven
- We are forgiven
- We are designed to bring God glory and praise
- We are united with Christ

On and on. All of those things are true about us as God's sons and daughters, they're pieces of our identity that are true across the board. God has also gifted each of us with unique gifts and skills and abilities, unique desires and passions. God has given each of us unique elements of identity in addition to those and we want to spend some time exploring that today.

Take a few minutes and take one of the "I am" cards (attached) and just fill in as many ways you can think of to finish the sentence "I am..." (Cards provided) There may be things we've talked about that apply to lots of people or they may be completely unique to you, just write down anything and everything that comes to mind.

Give 2-3 minutes for them to write as many as possible, challenge them to come up with at least 10.

Unpacking It (10 minutes)

As we come back together, look back over your list. What TYPES of things came up, not necessarily the specific things, but what types of things, for example, maybe some of you have titles of roles you play like "son, sister, brother, aunt, etc." What other types of things came up? *(Possibilities: things you like to do? Feelings or emotions? Things that you get excited or passionate about? Things you're good at/skills you have?)*

How are these things related to our identity?

Last week we talked about how some of the things that threaten to steal our identity fall into 4 main categories...

STUFF – "All that matters is what you have."

SUCCESS – "All that matters is how successful you are or having skills."

STATUS – "All that matters is that people notice me"

STABILITY – "All that matters is feeling or looking like everything is fine."

Here's an important thing to remember: as we said last week, none of these things are bad in and of themselves! We can have material items and do well in school and be recognized for who we are. It's the same about the lists you just made... those are good awesome things that God has created you uniquely for. He does NOT want us to give up those things and become robots that all look alike; no, He VALUES our uniqueness. However, some of those areas, whether strengths or weaknesses in our lives, are where Satan can sneak in and cause confusion. When we're good at something he pushes us toward pride ... to make that the center of our lives. Or when we have a weakness he gets us to fixate on it all the time.

This leads to what we were discussing last week. For each of the areas, I've made up a pretend person. In small groups, we're going to spend some time reflecting on what life might be like when we get fixated on one thing and forget the whole of our identity.

- Have-It-All Hank – I'm defined by what I have.
- Perfectionist Patty – I am defined by what I do.
- Cool Chris – The only thing that matters is if people see me.
- Macho Mark – I'm fine. Everything is just fine. I have to be strong.

Each group will have one person. I want you to think through some things they might say or do or feel as well as the truth they may need to hear about how their identity has been stolen.

(Feel free to share the example below if you think it would be helpful before breaking into groups and then just hand out the other 3 people.)

EXAMPLE:

HAVE-IT-ALL HANK

What Hank might be telling himself/What lies is the might deceiver trying to get him to believe:

- If I had more or better things, I'd be happy.
- I'm defined by what I have
- I only matter in this world if I have the latest things.
- If I go shop or drink or eat more, then I'll be okay.

Where might Hank have first gotten these ideas:

- Looking for something, anything to fill a hole in his life.
- Seeing other people with cool or new or lots of things
- Media and advertising that seems to show him all the things he's missing out on by not having things

If Hank believes these lies to be true, how might that impact his actions:

- Just keep buying stuff.
- Potentially end up in debt
- Value things over people

What truths Hank might need to hear about his identity in Christ (if you know one, list a Bible verse that backs up the truth):

- You have a great inheritance in heaven!
- You are loved no matter what stuff you may or may not have
- Having more things will not make you feel better about yourself

SMALL GROUP TIME (20 minutes)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS:

Take just a couple minutes on each question on the sheet for the assigned "person" you have, just get them thinking a little about it. If you end up with extra time, you can either talk about another of the people or discuss using some of these questions:

- What about life as a teenager makes believing these truths challenging?
- Have any of you ever known something was a lie in your head, but just couldn't get past feeling that way? If so, do any of you have any ideas of what's helpful to let God's truth get past your brain and into your heart?
- STUFF, SUCCESS, STATUS, STABILITY, DESPAIR – We all struggle with different ones of these at different points, but if you were to pick one which seems to be the biggest challenge for teenagers in general, which would you say is the hardest?

With about 10 minutes (half of your time) left, transition into a discussion about Genesis 3:

To wrap this all together, let's look at the first time Satan shows up in Scripture and how he managed to deceive even the very first humans who lived in a perfect world, in Genesis 3. As you flip to Genesis 3, we can remember the context. At this point God has created the world, completely 100% perfect. Adam and Eve were in perfect unity with God and had perfect relationship with Him and with each other. God had placed them in the garden with everything they could ever need or want including a sense of purpose through the work He had given them. Things were going just fine and dandy, until Satan showed up, and that's where we'll pick up the story.

While we read, think of these questions:

- What tactics did Satan use to steal their identity or get them to believe lies about themselves or God?
- Do you see Satan attacking any of the areas we've talked about... stuff, success, status, stability?

Read Genesis 3:1-7 and discuss the questions. After a few minutes we'll come back together as a large group.

LARGE GROUP (10 Minutes)

Recap some answers in the large group from the Genesis 3 small group discussion then SAY SOMETHING LIKE: To close today, I want us to look back at where we left off in Genesis 3. This is after they've been deceived and I find it fascinating their response...

Read verse 7-8.

What did they do? (Run and hide).

For the first time in history, "shame" entered the picture and I think that is why we still struggle with these things today... because we find shame in them. When we compare ourselves to others or we don't live up to parents' expectations or we don't have the latest gadget, we feel shame. Shame often steals our identity and makes it challenging to believe truth when it's presented to us. Let's keep reading and see how God responded.

Read verse 9-11.

As I read these verses, the questions God asks stick out to me. "Where are you?" and "Who told you that you were naked?" And when I hear these questions, I don't think He asked them in a demanding, harsh tone. Rather, I think it was with a broken heart. He knew where they were but was inviting them to offer the information. With compassion, He asked "Who told you who you are?" Up until that time, only God was speaking their identity into their lives and then all of a sudden this Satan guy shows up and tells them things that contradict. And ever since then we've struggled with all the things that try to speak into our lives telling us who we are and whether or not we matter in this world.

Closing Prayer (5 Minutes)

So, to close in prayer today, I invite you to close your eyes, settle in, and listen to God asking US those questions.

(Short pause as they settle)

As you sit there, imagine yourself in hiding from God or from other people. And the first question is what are you hiding... is it something you've done wrong? Is it something that someone else did to you? Is it the fact that life is hard but you feel this need to act like everything is fine... what are you trying to keep covered up?

(Pause)

Then, God's first question... Where are you? What bush are you hiding behind? Is it the tree of perfectionism and having life together... the tree of working harder and harder and harder? Is your bush one that just tries to stay busy or tries to use things to prove your worth in the world? As God calls out "Where are you?", tell Him now in your mind what you find yourself hiding behind.

(Pause)

And lastly, "Who told you that?" Whatever lie you're believing about whatever you're trying to hide, talk to God and identify who told you that. Is it just media in general? Is it the people at school? Is it pressure from your parents or church or someone one else? Who told you that you're not enough? Who told you that you have to have it all together? Who told you that your value is wrapped up in what you can or can't do? Who told you?

(Pause)

As you reflect on these questions God is asking you, now I want you to ask God a question and then sit and listen. "What truth do you need me to hear today?" Be still and listen for His answer... listen for what He may want to tell you today as he calls you out of hiding. *(In this next pause, remind them of the promises from Ephesians 1: we are loved, we are chosen, we are adopted, we have an inheritance in heaven, we are forgiven, we are designed to bring God glory and praise, we are united with Christ.)*

(Pause)

Pray this out loud: Jesus, we thank you that you call us out of hiding and praise you that where Satan has stolen our identity you desire to restore it. Speak truth to us this week about who we are. Show us where we're distracted from our true identity. Help us find joy in being your sons and daughters and help us remember whatever truths you whispered to us today. In your name we pray, Amen!

HAVE-IT-ALL HANK

What might Hank be telling himself? What lies is the deceiver trying to get him to believe?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Where might Hank have first gotten these ideas? (Think media, family, friends, situations, etc.)

- _____
- _____
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- _____
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- _____

If Hank believes these lies to be true, how might that impact his actions?

- _____
- _____
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- _____

What truths Hank might need to hear about his identity in Christ? (If you know one, list a Bible verse to back up each truth.)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERFECTIONIST PATTY

What might Patty be telling herself? What lies might the deceiver try to get her to believe?

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- _____

Where might Patty have first gotten these ideas? (Think media, family, friends, situations, etc.)

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- _____

If Patty believes these lies to be true, how might that impact her actions?

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- _____

What truths might Patty need to hear about her identity in Christ? (If you know one, list a Bible verse to back up each truth.)

- _____
- _____
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- _____
- _____

COOL CHRIS

What might Chris be telling himself? What lies might the deceiver try to get him to believe?

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Where might Chris have first gotten these ideas? (Think media, family, friends, situations, etc.)

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If Chris believes these lies to be true, how might that impact his actions?

- _____
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- _____

What truths might Chris need to hear about his identity in Christ? (If you know one, list a Bible verse to back up each truth):

- _____
- _____
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- _____
- _____

MACHO MARK

What might Mark be telling himself? What lies might the deceiver try to get him to believe:

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- _____
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- _____

Where might Mark have first gotten these ideas? (Think media, family, friends, situations, etc.)

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If Mark believes these lies to be true, how might that impact his actions?

- _____
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- _____

What truths might Mark need to hear about his identity in Christ? (If you know one, list a Bible verse that backs up each truth.)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

I am...

I am...

I am...

I am...

I am...

I am...

WEEK 3

The Words Project (10 minutes)

(For this activity, I used a resource called "The Words Project" (wordsproject.org), but you can still do a similar activity easily by printing up some general topics (love, forgiveness, Jesus, life, future, etc) on big cards and then different adjectives (opposites work well) on small cards (awesome, lame, hopeful, distressing, intriguing, annoying, risky, safe). Another option is to ask what the first word that comes to mind is when they hear the topic.

- Put out the "Life" card and ask students to pick an adjective that describes the past week of life. Have them share their word and why they picked it.
- Put out one or two other cards and have them pick words to go along with it as well.
- Today we're going to be talking about "purpose" and how it relates to identity. What word would you pick for this and why?

Recap and Jumping into This Week (5 minutes)

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: We've been talking for a few weeks about identity. The first week we talked about our identity as God's children in Christ and began exploring some of the ways Satan tries to steal that identity from us. Last week we looked a little more specifically at our personal identities... the unique ways that God created us. We also talked about Genesis 3 and the first lies that Satan told and how God responded to sin entering the world, working to restore their identity.

- I mentioned we were going to talk about purpose today. Why might this connect with identity or why do you think we might talk about purpose in a series called "Identity Theft"?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Those are all great answers and some I hadn't even thought of before. Two specific things come to mind when I think about the connection between identity and purpose. One, having purpose in our identity, we can miss the purpose God has for us.

Small Group Discussion and Study (30 minutes)

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

- "What is the purpose of life?" This is an interesting question. Why might it be important to explore this question?
- What might be ways that people answer it?
 - How do you think your parents answer it?
 - How do you think your teachers answer it?
 - How do you think one of your friends at school might answer it?
- What things impact the way we look at purpose?

As we jump into Scripture today, we're going to start by doing something similar to week 1. As you read, underline any parts of verses that say anything about these three things: God's identity and character, human's identity, or human's purpose.

(SMALL GROUP LEADERS: you can either have them all do this on their own and then come back together, or do it together as a small group. Both are good options that help them learn to be able to study God's Word on their own.)

- How does Genesis 1 describe God?
- What do we learn from verses 26-31 about the identity and purpose of humans?
- How is the Creator different from His creation? Any similarities?
- Our world is filled with different ideas of how the world and human life began. While that's not the topic of today's lesson, what are the implications for our identity and purpose in life if we do or do not believe in the Biblical view of creation?
e.g. if we're all just an accident, then we have NO purpose here.

Now Read 2 Timothy 1:6-14.

- What does this passage tell us about our identity and purpose? How might this be different than what the world tells us is our purpose in existing?

LARGE GROUP and CLOSING PRAYER (10 Minutes)

As we wrap up today, we're going to play another word game. It has to do with our individual identity and purpose. Who we are leads to what God calls us to do.

We're going to come up with 3 words... Or it could be phrases or sentences, of who you believe God is calling you to be... your identity and your purpose. Spend some time in prayer with God asking him to reveal those things to you.

Ask students if they want to share anything they came up with and close the group in prayer.

Genesis 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

6-25 Summary: (Day 2 – sky; Day 3 – land, seas, trees, plants; Day 4 – sun and moon; Day 5 – fish, birds; Day 6 – animals and we pick up the story again still on Day 6...)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰ And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground— everything that has life." And that is what happened.

³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!
And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

Chapter 2 So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ² On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

⁴ This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

- What do we learn about God in this passage? Characteristics, abilities, His identity, etc.
- What do we learn (especially from verses 26-31) about the identity and purpose of humans?
- How is the Creator different from His creation? Any similarities? (Can use other verses too)

Read Psalm 138:8 and then use the prayer below to help start thinking about your own identity and purpose.

***The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands. (Psalm 138:8)***

Jesus, what are some things that you want to tell me about my identity and the purpose you have for me? Show me what you have made me for. Fulfill your purpose for me in love.

Sit and listen for a while. As you do, consider 3-4 words or statements you feel like Jesus is telling you about who you are and why He made YOU to be a live in our world right now. Make note of anything you sense below.