

CUSTOM CREATIONS

Elementary
Week 1

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL: Identity

Read: Acts 9, Psalms 139

When we were kids, our identity slowly formed over years through words, actions, and time. *“I am good at soccer, that made people notice me.” “I got an F on a math test, and I am still not sure why, but I must not be very smart.” “Those kids at school made fun of my hair, therefore I must not be very attractive.”* We had people telling us every day who we should (and shouldn’t) have been and what defined us—from the time we were born to adulthood. Overtime (hopefully) our filter for our identity improved. It also could get harder to discern. *“I am creative and good at creative things, therefore my creative job and accomplishments define me, because I know that is an intrinsic part of my being.” “I blew up at my family because I was having a hard day. I must be an angry, out of control person.” “I can’t run and workout like I used to and am certainly not as in shape as that person over there, so I must not be active or healthy.”*

We admire things in others and neglect to admire the gold in ourselves. But God sees it, and has seen it since the very beginning. His love for you has never changed...and never will.

It’s Fall and the colorful, bright leaves are falling off trees and flying around the ground. I feel like if we were to take the time to look at each one, we could see how incredible and unique each was in their own way. I picked up a leaf on my walk today that was tie-dye yellow, green, and brown—with holes. It was stunning. Later, I picked up another that was bright yellow with (what looked like) brown polka dots. The reality is God made each one of those leaves—and each one of us. He sees as much beauty in us as I do in all those leaves that fill my books and pockets every fall. We have holes from our past, mistakes from our past, and we have changed colors and grown over time. But if we take time to really take it all in, then we can see the intentional way God designed each of us.

Take time to reflect on the intentional ways God created you. Take your quirks and traits and see if you can recognize the way God takes true joy in them. Like my obsession with leaves (odd to some people), I think when God sees my passion for leaves, he smiles at me taking such joy from a small piece of his creation. We have all been *“fearfully and wonderfully made”* (Psalm 139:14) and sometimes it can be hard to remember that—and walk with that truth. The reality is our identity doesn’t come from what we can or can’t do...what we look like...who

people say we are or who we wish we were. It lies in the fact that we are children of the King and we are loved more than we can comprehend; despite what we have done or will do.

What are things in your life that you give the power to define you when, in reality, it is not who you are?

Read through the list we are handing out to kids this week once a day, as a reminder of who you truly are.