

# YOU, AT YOUR CORE

## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Who am I, and what is my purpose?

## BIG IDEA

Human beings are unique individuals made in God's image. Our purpose in life is to live in personal relationship with the Triune God of the Bible, and bring Him glory by advancing His Kingdom in all that we do and say.

## SCRIPTURE USED

**Genesis 1:26-27:** *Then God said, "Let Us make man like Us and let him be head over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every thing that moves on the ground." And God made man in His own likeness. In the likeness of God He made him. He made both male and female.*

**Matthew 28:18-20:** *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

**1 Corinthians 10:31:** *So if you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything to honor God.*

**2 Corinthians 5:15-17:** *He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

## OPENER

### For the opener you will need:

- "Characters"—one for each student (see explanation below)
- A bag to put them in (optional)
- An "Introducing..." sheet for each student—a 2-up template for this handout is found near the end of the lesson
- Pens or pencils for students

Before your group meets, collect enough “characters” or pictures of characters for your students to each have one. Borrowing Lego people, princess figurines, stuffed puppets, etc. works well. You can also cut out coloring pages or print them for free online. Try to find a few very unique characters—ones that are not “named” or trademarked. Prepare a character example ahead of time, but do not use it unless you need to.

You can launch your opening activity by either having students grab their “character” blindly, or by laying them out and letting them choose. (The first option is often more challenging, but also lends itself to more creative answers!) Provide each student with an “Introducing...” sheet.

## EXPLAIN

**Today you are going to invent the identity of this very special someone you have selected. Now, if you find you have someone whose story you may know—like a Disney character, for example—you need to invent an all new identity for this individual. Each of you should introduce us to your character from scratch! No preconceived notions or stereotypes about your character.**

**OK, when I say “GO,” you have two and a half minutes to quickly answer the questions on the “Introducing...” sheet.**

After you call “time,” ask for a few volunteers to share the identity of their chosen character. This will likely be a funny exercise. Try to discern if there are any commonalities among the ways students explain what is “most important” and a character’s particular “purpose.”

## TRANSITION

### ASK

- **You made up a fun, pretend identity in a very short amount of time, but let’s get a little more serious now. In your own words, how would you define what “identity” means?** (One simple definition of “identity” is “a sense of self.” After letting students list some possible definitions or synonyms, it may be helpful to summarize what was said with a succinct statement the group can agree on. A white board / flip chart is helpful here, if you have one.)
- **If I said, he / she “struggles with their own identity” can you think of any specific examples of what that might mean?**
- **How would you state your own identity in just a few words?**
- **Is our “identity” interrelated with our “purpose,” or are they entirely separate issues? Why do you think that?**