

## 5th Grade Kickstarter:

### ***Invitation to Identity***

The emotions of a 5th grader can run the gamut. They're at the top of the stack at elementary schools, but there's also a good deal of fear about the middle school years just ahead. With all that uncertainty comes the moment when 5th graders begin to ask themselves, "Who am I and where do I fit in?" This is a conversation that will continue to be played in their minds well into their teen years. We want to help you set them up to know fully WHO THEY ARE as they face this ongoing question.

### **Kickstarter 1: Made with Purpose**

Read together **Psalm 139:13-18**

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!*

*Your workmanship is marvelous —how well I know it.*

*You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.*

*Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

*How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!*

*I can't even count them;  
they outnumber the grains of sand!*

*And when I wake up,  
you are still with me!*

*You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.*

These are God's thoughts about you. Use the boy/girl graphic and write within it how you would describe yourself, what are you good at, what do you like doing, what kind of person you are.

Pray with your child that he/she would see himself/herself as God sees him/her.

Give your 5th grader space to do this alone. Depending on the privacy level of your child he/she may not want you to see it, may not want you to look at it in front of them, may share openly, etc. You can ask them to leave it on their dresser and you can look at it during

a time that he/she isn't around. They could lay it on the kitchen counter, or they may want to just put it in a safe place. It'd be great for you to know what it contains, but it's more important that the child is honest and does it.

## **Kickstarter 2: God's Bigger Plan**

Ask your child, what are some things you'd love to be able to do in life, what are your big dreams? Lead your child to write some of these on the **MY FUTURE** page. If they're having trouble thinking of some things share what some of your dreams were as a kid. It's OK if they did/didn't come true. This is a time for him/her to think big. In kickstarter 1 the child did the activity alone, do this one together.

Once done read, **Jeremiah 29:11**  
*For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*

Tell your child, God has big plans for you. Right now you may not know exactly what those plans are. What you can do as you wait to know God's plan for your life is follow Him and obey Him now. God has given you dreams and passions, and He knows which ones are the right ones to follow, so live for Him today and He'll guide your tomorrow.

## **Kickstarter 3-Be authentic**

Ask your child, what do you think it means to be authentic?

Being authentic means not being fake or copying but being real, being YOU. Sometimes all we see is how we are different than others, but God designed us that way. Samuel was given the task of anointing the next king out of Jesse's family. Jesse brings his sons and lines them up in front of Samuel.

Read **1 Samuel 16:6-13**.

*When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!"*

*But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

*Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the Lord has chosen." Next Jesse summoned Shimea,[a] but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen." In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"*

*"There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats."*

*“Send for him at once,” Samuel said. “We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.”*

*So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes.*

*And the Lord said, “This is the one; anoint him.”*

*So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.*

Look at David. He was definitely different. In fact his Dad didn't even bother having him show up for this time between his sons and Samuel. God sees people very differently than we see ourselves. God chose David because David was different and God knew his heart.

Tell your child God has created them to be different. All those differences are intentional, God chose those qualities for you alone. Have your child take a good, honest look at himself/herself and write down all the ways he/she is unique/different on the I am me sheet. You can choose for them to do this alone or with you, gage your own child's needs.