

## ***Identity (Who Am I?)***

### **FRAMING UP OUR PURPOSE**

Teenagers have never had it tougher. If you're a parent today, you know what I mean. Social pressures are more pervasive and destructive than ever before. Parents often feel helpless to equip their teens with the tools to navigate and steer clear of harmful relationships, attitudes and behaviors.

Ideally, the process of equipping our kids to live and thrive in an often Christian-hostile world begins as soon as they are born. In fact, parents are the single most important developmental influence in a child's life, apart from the Holy Spirit himself. But even if time has slipped away, and your teenager seems out of reach, you can begin to lay building blocks to help your teen grow to maturity in Christ and make a positive impact on their world. Love, commitment, self-discipline, perseverance and a lot of prayer are required, but you can do it.

Assisting your teen in forging a strong, positive identity is one way to help him or her form convictions based on truth, and then stand firm in them regardless of what everyone else does. In this year's rite of passage experience we want to challenge you to encourage your child to be who God made them to be, rather than whom the world or we wants them to be. In your parent guide you will find three rites of passage activities with step-by-step instructions for you and your child to follow.

In preparation for these three activities we have provided you with an activity which asks the question "Who am I?" from the perspective of "who" the Bible says we are. Feel free to this use this activity as an additional resource with your teenager too!



Give your child the list of 10 Bible verses below (minus the answers in red!) With them, look in the Bible to find out their true identity. All of these verses are taken from the NIV translation, so you may need to amend if using a different translation.

• **Ephesians 2:10** – For we are \_\_\_\_\_, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**God's handiwork**

• **2 Corinthians 5:17** – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ has come – the old has gone, the new is here! **New creation**

• **Romans 8: 37** – No, in all these things we are \_\_\_\_\_ through him who loved us.

**More than conquerors**

• **1 John 3:1** – See what great love the Father \_\_\_\_\_.

**Children of God**

• **Philippians 3:20** – But our \_\_\_\_\_ is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Citizenship**

• **1 John 4:4** – You, dear children, are \_\_\_\_\_ and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. **From God**

• **Romans 8:1** – Therefore, there is now \_\_\_\_\_ for those who are in Christ Jesus. **No condemnation** (i.e. they're not condemned)

• **John 15:15** – I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you \_\_\_\_\_, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

**Friends**

• **2 Corinthians 5:17** – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ has come – the old has gone, the new is here! **New creation**

• **2 Corinthians 5:20** – We are therefore \_\_\_\_\_, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

**Christ's ambassadors**

• **Romans 8:17** – Now if we are children, then we are \_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_ of God and co-\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. **Heirs**