



I AM

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## **Week 4: I am a child of God**

**What we want students to learn:** They have a new identity in Christ as a Child of God.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To live out their new identity with confidence in their identity and how the Lord sees them.

**Large Group Message Focus:** Ephesians 2:14-22

**Scripture Focus:** Ephesians 2:19-22

## **The Main Point**

We are all children of God, whether we know it or not. But, we can only experience the fullness and security of this through faith in Jesus. Did you know, God calls us a part of His household. He doesn't want us to just serve Him, he wants us to live with him. Often times we get wrapped up in the world and the labels it lays on us. But this doesn't change what God calls us to be. God will proudly call us His children, time and time again. We only need to receive it and believe it.

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## INTRODUCTION

First, ask the ice breaker question.

- **What is most important to you?**

Even if this wasn't at the top of your students lists, many people find family to be most important. Sometimes we forget we're a part of God's family and are #1 to Him!

PRAY that your students would finally believe that they are a child of God. Not by what they do, but because of what Jesus did for them.

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## LESSON

First, we're going to look at Ephesians 2:19-22. This verse talks about how our identity changes with Christ from foreigner to a part of His household.

- **If anyone could knock on your door tonight who would you want it to be?**
  - *Did your students pick a celebrity, long lost friend, or even a family member? For a lot of our high school girls, they probably want their dream prom date knocking on the door with their oh so anticipated prom-posal.*
- **Would you ever let a stranger into your home? Why or why not?**
  - *No, most people would never welcome a stranger into their home! Why? Because, you don't know their intentions and don't have a reason to trust them.*

- **What about someone you love and cherish? How quickly would you let them in?**
  - *Of course. We would let that person inside without a doubt and enjoy their company.*

This is how the Lord feels about us! He openly welcomes us to His household in Heaven and a relationship with Him. After we accept Jesus, we are not strangers to God. He knows us intricately and STILL wants us.

- **What does this mean to you?**
  - This means everything to us. The Lord is our refuge and our protector and a good Father.

**For many of our students, talks about God as their Heavenly Father feel somewhat odd or abstract because they don't have a great relationship with their earthly father. Or, even if the relationship is great, it doesn't mean the relationship is perfect.**

- **What is one of your favorite memories you have with your dad (or similar father figure)?**
- **What kind of relationship do you have with your dad?**
  - For many, this is a touchy subject. Maybe their dad left. Maybe he didn't leave, but he still doesn't really seem to care.
- **Has the way you see your dad ever affected the way you see God? How?**
- **What is the difference between being an earthly father and a Heavenly Father?**

Do your students need a word of encouragement? No matter if their relationship with their dad is great, rocky, or nonexistent, everyone needs encouragement. Spend a few minutes calling out one good thing you see in each student. Call out something about who they are, not what they do. For the small groups with two leaders, consider splitting up into two groups to make this more personal. After this is over, explain the following: *God loves you, not because of what you do, but because of who you are. You aren't his kid because you did anything to get there. Actually, he scarified his only son Jesus so he could have a relationship with you as His kid. He loves you unconditionally, and there is nothing you can ever do to change that.*

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## LIFE APPLICATION

Not only do we want your students to recognize their identity as a Child of God, but we want them to live it out. No, we don't just mean doing more things. Rather, we mean being able to rest in the fact that no matter what they do, nothing can change the way God feels about them. They are His kid, and nothing can change that.

- **What does it look like to live like as a Child of God?**
  - *No longer trying to earn His love, talking to Him as you would a parent, growing more comfortable with Him, trusting him with decisions, etc.*
- **Now that we know some ways we can live out this new identity, what is one specific way you will you live out your identity as God's kid this week?**

Close small group out with prayer requests. Pray specifically that your group would receive their identity as children of God this week.

After prayer, be sure to remind them of any upcoming group serving activities or student events and THE WEEKEND!