

SESSION THIRTEEN

I AM ON MISSION

We have everything we need
to live on mission for God.

🔒 KEY PASSAGES

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

🔑 KEY VERSE

Acts 1:8

SPARK THE CONVERSATION

Throughout this study preteens have taken a deep dive into the conversation of identity and what they allow to define them. They have learned about being created in God's image and for His glory, being broken by sin, and deeply loved by God. They have understood what it means to be called accepted, secure, significant, and called. And they have walked through the blessings God has given them to equip them for the mission He is calling them to. As this study concludes, encourage your group to live out their faith in confidence, knowing the truth of what defines them is what God says is true about them. He calls them ambassadors and beckons them to join Him in the glorious mission of sharing Jesus with those around them and growing deeper in relationship with their Savior.

IGNITE **PDG**

YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)

As preteens arrive, lead them to complete "Mission Codes" in their discipleship guides (PDG, 102). Invite preteens to read aloud the statements and discuss each statement.

Ask: What have you learned through this study about your mission? How do you fulfill this mission? (Invite preteens to turn to Session 8 for review if needed.)

SHARPEN & STRENGTHEN PDG

YOU WILL NEED

- Bibles (1 per preteen)
- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)

Direct preteens to Sharpen & Strengthen in their discipleship guides (PDG, 103). Invite the group to follow along as you lead the Bible study.

Say: If you served in the military, your mission would be the task your commanding officers give you. They would train you, equip you, and send you and your team to complete the mission. To accomplish the mission successfully, you and your team must be committed to the task and act on your training. God has a mission to point people to Jesus and He calls all of His followers to join Him on that mission.

NEW CREATION

Guide preteens to open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 5.

Say: A few weeks ago, we talked about being called to live on mission and share the gospel. Today, we're going to go deeper and discover how our mission affects our identities.

Select a volunteer to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:16-17.

Explain: Paul wrote this letter to a church in Corinth to encourage believers and remind them of the foundation of their faith. In these verses he wrote that from this point forward the people were not to know anyone from a worldly perspective. This can be a difficult verse to understand. Paul was explaining to the believers in Corinth that followers of Jesus don't look at other people the way the world does. People around us often live as if this physical, present life is all that matters. They make decisions and values based on what they believe matters right now, not understanding the eternal value and importance of salvation.

Ask: How have you seen people live as if this life is all that matters? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

Continue: Paul told the Corinthians that they were not to think this way, but to remember that what is eternal matters most. As believers, we know there is much more to life than this present moment. Paul states that everyone who has trusted in Jesus is a new creation. Our old identities of sin and brokenness are removed, and God gives us a new identity as His children. As we consider how we live for God, we must remember the foundation for our identity is built on who He says we are.

Ask: How would you explain your identity and what it means to be a new creation through a relationship with Jesus? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

RECONCILED TO GOD

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 aloud or invite preteens to read these verses.

Explain: Reconcile means the removal of iniquity and restoration between God and people. When we trust in Jesus and God calls us new creations, He also removes our trespasses (sins) and gives us the gift of reconciliation.

Reconcile: the removal of iniquity and restoration between God and people (See Matthew 5:24; Romans 5:10.)

Ask: According to verse 18, what did God give us? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

Explain: God reconciled and restored the relationship between people and Himself by sending Jesus for us. He also calls us to this same ministry of reconciliation—pointing people to Jesus and helping them realize their need for Him. Our mission is to help people understand how they can know God and be reconciled to Him.

Ask: Why do you think our mission is important? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

AMBASSADORS

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21.

Continue: Scripture gives us another title to add to our identity as followers of Jesus—ambassadors. An ambassador is a person who acts

as a representative. As believers, we represent God to the people around us by reflecting Him to the world and sharing what is true about Him. As ambassadors we are called to join God in His mission of pointing people to Jesus.

Ambassador: person who acts as a representative (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Ask: Do you feel equipped to accomplish this mission? Why or why not? (Lead preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

Atonement: the work of Jesus to cover or cancel sin; Jesus made atonement for our sins when He died on the cross (Hebrews 2:17)

Justification: the truth that when God says that our sins are forgiven, we are made righteous (Romans 5:18)

Explain: The assurance of feeling equipped to join God in His mission is found in 2 Corinthians 5:21. God's Word tells us that God the Father made Christ to be regarded and treated as sin even though Jesus never sinned. (See Hebrews 4:15.) Jesus became our substitute. He took the punishment we deserve and gives us His righteousness. Because we trust in Jesus we are called justified. God declares us forgiven because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice.

Say: Our confidence in joining God on mission is the hope of the gospel. When we understand the great love and grace God has for us and how He has transformed our hearts and our very identities, we gladly and joyfully join God on mission as His faithful ambassadors. We are called to live out the gospel in our words, actions, and attitudes to the world around us, pointing people to Jesus and walking faithfully with Him.

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **We have everything we need to live on mission for God.** God has placed you in the family you are in, the school you are in, next to the neighbors you live by all for His good plan and purpose. Sometimes because of the brokenness of the world, these life circumstances and relationships are difficult, but when we trust and follow God's ways, we can still glorify Him in the midst of these broken circumstances and relationships. You are valuable to God because you are made in His image. He wants to work through you to point many people to Jesus.

KEY VERSE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

YOU WILL NEED:

- Bibles (1 per preteen)
- 5 rectangles cut from construction paper in each of the following colors: blue, green, yellow, and red paper (identical in size)
- Gift bag

PREPARE:

- Place the rectangles inside the bag.

Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Acts 1:8. Select a volunteer to read aloud the verse.

Say: God’s plan is for all believers to point others to Jesus in these different areas (community, city, country, and world). We don’t have to follow this particular order. The point is that we are looking for opportunities to tell others about Jesus everywhere we go.

Form two teams. A player from one team will choose a rectangle from the bag.

- If he chooses a *blue rectangle*, he should share the name of someone in his community he can tell about Jesus.
- If he chooses a *green rectangle*, he can share the name of someone in his city or town he can tell about Jesus.
- If he chooses a *yellow rectangle* he will share the name the name of someone in the country.
- If he chooses a *red rectangle* he will share the name the name of someone in the world. **Note: Preteens can name a country if they don’t know a person in a specific country.*

Each time the player answers the name of a person, his team receives 5 points. If he can’t think of someone’s name, his team members may help him for 3 points. Play as time allows. Invite preteens to brainstorm various ways to serve in these different contexts.

Call attention to the key verse cards in the Preteen Discipleship Guide. Invite preteens to share how God has used verses to encourage them. Pray for people who do not have a relationship with God. Ask God to speak to the preteens and help them be willing to go wherever God calls them to go to tell people about Jesus.

FIRE IT UP!

WOULD YOU EAT THAT?

YOU WILL NEED

- Item 2: Allergy Alert
- Item 17: Would You Eat That?
- Variety of international snack items (available in the international food aisle at your grocery store)

PREPARE

- Print Item 17: Would You Eat That?
- Invite someone who has been on a mission trip to share with the group.

Say: People around the world often eat a variety of different foods. I'll read aloud a food and explain the food to you. Stand up if you think you would eat the food. Stay seated if you would not eat the food.

Read aloud "Would You Eat That?" and invite preteens to respond. Invite preteens to tell why they would or would not eat the food. Serve the snack items. Invite the guest to share about her experience and how she was able to tell people about Jesus.

Guide the speaker to pray for the preteens to have courage to fulfill their mission to tell others about Jesus. Pray for boldness, wisdom, and confidence in who God says they are as they live for Him and point others to Him.

TESTIMONY

TEACHING TIP Invite a preteen from your group to share her testimony before the session. Include parents in the conversation and guide the preteen as you prepare her to share her story.

Explain: Your testimony is your story of how you became a Christian and what God is doing in your life right now. When you share your testimony, share the answers to these three questions:

1. What was your life like before becoming a Christian?
2. How did you become a Christian?
3. What is your life like since you became a Christian?

Invite a preteen you've previously asked to share her testimony with the group. Thank her for sharing her story. Encourage preteens that as they live out their mission, they can remember who God says they are and walk in confidence of their identities as children of God.

Lead preteens to complete "Who are You Praying For?" in their discipleship guides (PDG, 104). Invite preteens to spend a few moments praying silently for God to give them opportunities to share about Jesus with these people. Close the group in prayer.

BREAK IT DOWN

Finish: Each person has a mission. Our mission is to help people know God loves them and wants a relationship with them. Think of all the places you will go this week. What opportunities will you have to share God's love to people in these places?

Explain: In this study we have learned about our identity—who God says we are—and how it changes the way we live. We are called to live on mission and God has given us everything we need to accomplish His plan for our lives. We can stand with confidence of who God says we are. As a follower of Jesus God says you are:

- Made in His image
- Created for His glory
- Broken by sin, but deeply loved by God
- Accepted
- Secure
- Significant
- Called
- Indwelt with the Holy Spirit
- Given spiritual gifts
- Made for community
- An ambassador of God to the world

Finish: No matter what circumstances you face, remember who you are and who you belong to. Walk in faithful obedience to God's plan for your life, knowing you are defined by your identity in Christ alone.