

2018 Curriculum

National Youth and Children's Ministry



(DAUGHTERS OF ESTHER – PRIOR YEAR NATIONAL SESSION)

True Identity

Our Motto

THIS IS OUR TIME —For such a time as this (Esther 4:14) The Book of Esther shows that when you yield yourselves to God in every situation— even during the times when God seems hidden from view, it opens the possibilities of being used in ways that affect generations to come.

Our Flower

The myrtle was chosen as the DOE's flower because of its authenticity, durability and radiance. These are traits that should be displayed by our young ladies.



This year's curriculum will focus on the girls' identity as the daughters of Christ. When they find their identity in Christ, they will find that it is better than any other choice or way of life. They will see themselves as Christ sees them and will know who they are in Christ. In this curriculum, there are a series of practical lessons and activities that the girls can use to better understand the theme.

The goal of the Daughter of Esther's facilitator is to help the girls connect to the topic, to discover Biblical truths about their identity in Christ and to apply what they have learned.



June Bond, National Facilitator

TRUE IDENTITY

(And knowing who you are in Christ)



The youthful years are very formative time in a young person's life and it can often result in them asking questions about their identity, wondering "**Who am I?**"

This is one of the most important questions anyone can ask, and one with which our society seems obsessed or long for worth, for something distinctive, special and unique to our identity. We hope to find something that sets us apart from everyone else. To find out who you truly are, it is important to know who you are in Christ so that you can live as God intended and fulfil your purpose in life.

Let's Get Started!

Time and Place (plan a meeting or workshop)

Introduction (present the theme and curriculum to the group)

OPENING PRAYER: "Lord, help us understand why you create us and our purpose in life. Please prepare our hearts to accept your truth regarding our value or worth to you. Amen."

Ice Breaker Activity: Say, "Today we are going to learn more about who we are in Christ so we can live as God intended and fulfill our purpose in life." Introduce the lesson by reading the statements from the "Who AM I" questions on the next page. Then comment, "Next we are going to list something we like about ourselves using the object lesson from the **Girls Perspective**." After the girls complete the exercise from the "**Girls Perspective**", proceed with the questions from the "**Open Dialogue**". Continue to discuss the lessons and topics with the girls. Encourage participation, discussion and feedback from the girls. This is the time for learning and growing in the word of God.

Who am I?



Am I the things I have done?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Praise Dancer



Am I the things I aspire to be?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Youth of the Year

Not sure!

Honor
Student!

Am I what others think?



Some of these things!

None of these things!

SO, WHO ARE YOU REALLY?

The Girls' Perspective

Object Lesson: To ignite discussion and provoke thinking from the girls' viewpoint and how they see themselves.

Preparation: Have the girls to complete the exercise below.

Supplies: Paper and pens

Ask Yourself:

WHO AM I?

WHY AM I HERE?

Open Dialogue:

After the girls have finished completing the assigned task, have the girls shared their responses from the exercise. Next, proceed with the discussion below.

Discussion Questions:

1. In your own words, what is “identity”?

2. Why is it important to know what your identity is?

3. What is dangerous about finding your identity in something that can change or be taken away?

4. In what ways have you tried to blend in and be the same as others around you? In what ways has God made you unique?

5. What is one way you can express “**Who You Are?**” that brings glory to God?

Facilitator - In the next section, the girls will learn more about their true identity from the **Biblical Prospective**. The closer they are drawn to God, they will know more about their identity in Christ, and how to not lose focus on who they are destined to be.

In addition, there are two activities that the girls can do for better understanding of the lesson.

The Biblical Perspective

Key Points

- Our identity and purpose come from God.
- We are a masterpiece of God's creativity.
- God made us to love Him and reflect who He is.

A **healthy identity** comes from understanding the truth about ourselves. Our deepest desire is to understand who we are and the purpose for which we were made. It is important to know that God made us for a reason. Therefore, it is important to know who we are and why we are here.

Who we are?

The Scriptures say that we are "**fearfully and wonderfully made**" (Psalm 139:14). Our girls need to know that God created lots of people and yet He gave each person his or her own look, strengths, personality and potential. We can live in confidence that God does not make junk and every one of us is a unique masterpiece of His creation. *Discuss 1 Peter 2:9 with the girls.*

1 Peter 2:9 says, "But you are a **chosen people**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

Your true identity, is a gift from God. Let's look at a few of the things that are mentioned in the verse.

Chosen People ♣ God, in all His amazing power and wisdom, has looked at us and said, "This is a person that I love. I chose you."

Royal Priesthood ♣ You are "royalty", which means that you are an adopted child of God. He loves us, not as a friend or a follower, but as a daughter.

Holy Nation ♣ You are a part of the Chosen People, those whom God has set aside as special to Him. The best part is that no one can take that away from you.

Your true identity is in Christ. You do not have to “try to fit in, try to be cool or try to be someone that you are not”.

You are special in God’s eyes!

Read over the list below with the girls. Let them know that this is who they are in Christ, this is who THEY are. This is THEIR permanent identity. It can never be removed, messed up, taken away, or changed.

Here is what the Bible says about YOU and your identity in Christ:
(412 Teens.org)

- You are His own special possession. (*1 Peter 2:9, Deuteronomy 14:2*)
- You are chosen, handpicked by the God who created the universe. (*1 Peter 2:9, Jeremiah 1:5, Ephesians 1:3-4*)
- You are treasured. (*Deuteronomy 7:6 14:2, 26:18*)
- You are irreplaceable. (*1 Thessalonians 1:4*)
- You are loved beyond compare. (*1 John 4:19, 4:10, 3:16, Romans 5:8, 8:35-39*)
- You are worth dying for. (*1 John 3:16, Romans 5:7-9*)
- You are forgiven. (*Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 1:9, Romans 8:1, 33-39*)
- You are His child. (*1 John 3:1, Galatians 3:26*)
- You are set free. (*Romans 6:18, Galatians 5:1*)
- You are precious to Him. (*Isaiah 43:4*)
- You are set apart. (*John 15:16, 19, 1 Peter 2:9*)

This is YOUR identity in Christ.

This is who YOU are at school, home, church or with friends.

This is who YOU are when you are alone.

This is who YOU are in Christ.

Activity 1 – Christian Identity

For this activity asks the “Who am I?” question from the perspective of who the Bible says we are.

Facilitators - Give the girls the list of 10 Bible verses below (minus the answers in red!) Have them look in their Bibles to find out their true identity. All of these verses are taken from the NIV translation, therefore you can revise if using a different translation.

1. 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. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the _____ has come – the old has gone, the new is here! **New creation**
3. Romans 8: 37 – No, in all these things we are _____ through him who loved us. **More than conquerors**
4. 1 John 3:1 – See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called _____. **Children of God**
5. Philippians 3:20 – But our _____ is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Citizenship**
6. 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**
7. Romans 8:1 – Therefore, there is now _____ for those who are in Christ Jesus. **No condemnation** (i.e. they are not condemned)
8. 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**
9. 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**
10. 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**

Activity 1 – Christian Identity

Girls, use your bible (NIV or another translation) to complete the 10 Bible verses below to find out your true identity.

1. Ephesians 2:10 – For we are _____, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the _____ has come – the old has gone, the new is here!
3. Romans 8: 37 – No, in all these things we are _____ through him who loved us.
4. 1 John 3:1 – See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called _____.
5. Philippians 3:20 – But our _____ is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. 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.
7. Romans 8:1 – Therefore, there is now _____ for those who are in Christ Jesus
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.

Activity 2 – Who Are You?



Beforehand, ask the girls to bring a picture or photo of themselves to the meeting. On the back of the photos, write “Who are you?” at the top, then write “You are.....” and list several positive statements and character traits about each young person. If possible, include your volunteers or assistants to help the girls write something positive about themselves on the photo also.

The back of the photo, it may read something like:

Who Are You?

You are.....

- Generous
- Kind
- Always willing to help
- Caring

Discuss the uniqueness or commonalities that each girl shares or the differences that make them special or unique. At the end of the session, give them each their photo to take home with them. They will be sure to value this information on the back of their photo.

Why are we here?

The goal of this lesson is to inspire the girls with the knowledge that God not only make them unique as individuals, but He has created them with a special plan for their lives

In this lesson, the girls will...

Know

- God has a unique plan for their lives

Do

- Pray and ask God to help them see his plan for them come to pass

Facilitator – Have the girls read Ephesians 2:10, “Why were we made into masterpieces?” We were perfectly made by God for a very distinct purpose. We are to fulfill God’s will in our lives. Encourage the girls to memorize Ephesians 2:10.

God created us because he loved us and wants us to be part of his master plan.

Key verse: Ephesians 2:10

We are God’s masterpiece. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10, NLT).

You are God's Masterpiece!

*Because GOD IS THE CREATOR KING, I
know He made me special! I can trust His
plan for me!*

When God creates a masterpiece, He considers much more than just how His works of art “look.” His masterpieces are put together to fulfill an exciting destiny chosen by Him!

No one had any choice as to their parents, their race, their intelligence, their physical appearance or natural abilities. These all came to us by birth and they all came from God.

God gives us special gifts and abilities, we should recognize them for what they are—God's gifts to us. We cannot take credit for our gifts from God.



Connect with the girls

Facilitator -Talk about your own goals or dreams in life. What makes you different from others? How God has wired you? You can give a demonstration of something you like to do (i.e. baking, knitting, singing and so forth). Or invite a guest to share their story or testimony with the girls.

Our Creator is a God of vast mixture.



He does not make any two leaves exactly alike. He does not make any two snowflakes exactly alike. And He does not make any two people exactly alike.

You are a special, totally unique, one-of-a-kind individual. And you can bring special glory to God that no one else can bring.

The more we know of God's love for us, the more we will gain a sense of our true worth.

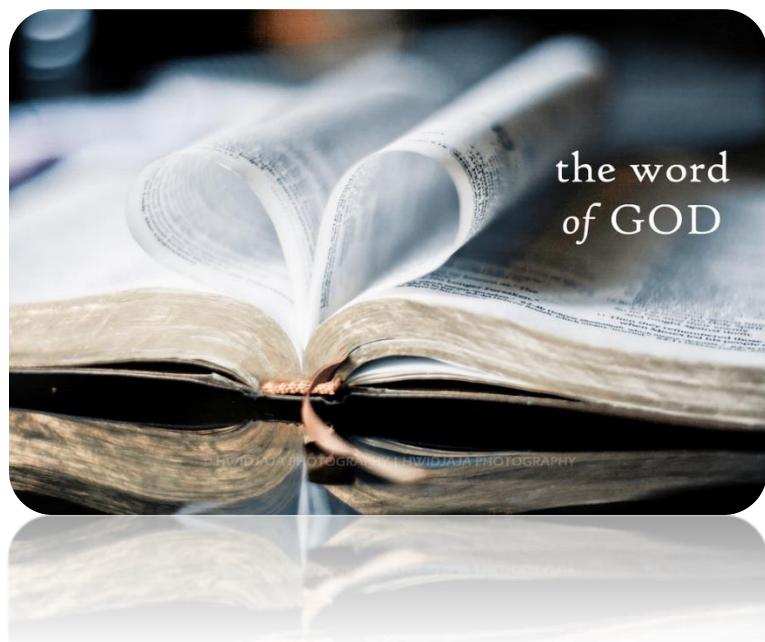
After the lesson and discussion about God's Masterpieces, have the girls complete activities 3, 4, and 5.

Activity 3 Let's Explore – God's Word

Have the girls to bring their bibles for this lesson. Have the girls close their bibles, say the Bible reference twice, then on the word "GO", have the girls quickly find the verse. Once they have find the verse, they can stand and say "GOT IT!" Have the first person read the verse aloud. Talk briefly about the verse. The purpose is to provide a reference where the girls can grow in knowledge.

- *Psalm 139:13*
- *I Corinthians 2:9*
- *Acts 20:24*
- *Ephesian 2:10*
- *Proverbs 16:1*

**From before birth you were made special
we can't even imagine God's grand plan!
We all have an assignment.
We were created for good works.
God has a plan for us.**



Activity 4 God's Masterpiece



Sometimes life can be like a puzzle. Before a puzzle is put together, the pieces are scattered so that we do not know what the picture is. We are not sure of what the completed picture looks like and how we fit into the picture. However, we can be certain that God knows! He made us!

Project: Have the girls work on a puzzle together. Discuss how the pieces are currently separated; however the puzzle will eventually come together to complete the picture. It is the same way that God works with each one of us to complete our life journey.

Activity 5 – Work of Art



(Picture from Pinterest)

Have the girls create their own work of art. Give them each an 11x14 canvas with markers to spell out the phrase “You are a masterpiece”. Then allow the girls to create their masterpieces. After the project is complete, have the girls to present (be creative –song, praise dance, writing, short oration) and display their “masterpieces”. This is an opportunity for the girls to showcase their talents.

We want the girls to always remember that they are perfectly made by God. Nothing is an accident or by chance. God does not make junk. They are designed to fulfill their God-given destiny. Emphasize the importance of the truth and to remember that they are masterpieces. And that God created them to have distinctive talents and abilities.

The Mind Makeover

Facilitator – ask the girls what they can do to let the word of God transform the way that they think or act. This is not an activity to condemn but to encourage the girls to spend personal time with God daily by praying and studying the word.

We know that the girls receive messages each day from friends, peers, the social media, teachers and other sources where their biblical views are challenged.

This exercise will help the girls to learn more about God's truth and to develop a closer relationship with God and move toward fulfilling their destiny.

Key Verse

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service

And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Materials Needed (Free burner Bible lesson)



- Glass
- Container of milk (or juice as long as it is different from water)
- Pitcher of water
- Pan or tray to catch the overflow

Preparation

You will need to test this object lesson to make sure that you have enough water to fill and replace the milk in the glass.

Object Lesson

In **Roman 12:1-2** tells us that we should not be the same as the world and that we should let God change the way we think. In order to fulfill God's purpose for our lives, we need help from God to lead us in the right direction by knowing, thinking and reflecting who we are in Christ.

(Show the glass and place it in the pan)

Tell the girls that this glass is going to represent your mind. The things that you think about. (Fill the glass full of milk.) Now it is full of all kinds of thoughts. Ask the girls to give examples of thoughts or things of the world. Mainly thinking in a way that does not please God. If you have thoughts about lying, cheating or doing something wrong, those are thoughts that do not please God.

God wants us to change the way we think. Tell the girls to look at the glass to see if it will change into something else just by looking at it.

(Look very closely at the milk)

Nothing happened! How can we change what is in the glass? How do we change the way that we think? By filling it with something else.

(Show the pitcher full of water)

Tell the girls that the pitcher of water will represent God's Word, the Bible. (Slowly start pouring the water into the glass of milk, letting it overflow into the plan,) Instead of letting our thoughts be filled with things of the world, we should let it get filled with God's Word. It is easy to let the world's way of thinking slip in. We are exposed to it on social media, TV, music, movies, magazines, the internet and many other ways. We need to fill our lives with God's word.

(The milk should be overflowing, now it should be noticeably diluted)

Ask the girls if they see what is happening. The water is replacing the milk. The same way that when we pour God's Word into our lives it begins to change the way that we think by replacing those worldly thoughts.

(Continue to pour the water)

The more we let God's Word into our life the more it will clean us and help us to think and act the way that God wants us to.

(The glass should be mostly clear). **Facilitator** – ask the girls what they can do to let the word of God transform the way that they think or act.

REFLECTION

- After each lesson, give the girls time to reflect on the lesson.
- How can they apply what was taught in the lesson?
- When you see yourself as Christ sees you, others may begin to see you that way too. If you are steady and secure in your identity in Him, your actions, speech, and life will express God's love. You will achieve your purpose in God's master plan.
- Remember who God says you are, because it is in Him where your true identity can be found. You're a child of God. That is worth celebrating. You're worth celebrating.

Conclusion:

Facilitators – consider having a celebration for the girls to show love and how they are worth *celebrating*. Be creative and think of ways to *celebrate* their uniqueness in Christ.



References

King James Bible (different translations)

Free burner Bible lesson

412 Teens.org