



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sept 13, 2026 | Built Different pt.1 - Identity Changes Everything

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS: If your personality were a food, what would it be and why? Or “If someone asked your best friend, ‘What makes you, you?’ what do you think they would say?”

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Being a child of God means we are built different. In 1 Peter 1:14-16, Peter calls us to live as obedient children and to be holy because God is holy. Being holy does not mean being perfect. It means being set apart for God and living from the identity He has given us. When we understand who we are, it begins to shape how we live. Our activity comes out of our identity. Instead of constantly asking, “What should I do?” we can ask, “Who am I, and what does my Father want me to do?” God would never call us to something without giving us the grace and power to walk it out.

When we put our faith in Jesus, we do not simply add Jesus to the life we already have. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we become a new creation. The old has passed away and the new has come. But becoming new does not mean we instantly have everything figured out. We still carry old habits, desires, fears, and ways of thinking from our former life. That is why Romans 8:15 says we have received the Spirit of adoption and can call God “Abba, Father.” We have not been rescued from sin and then left on our own. God has brought us into His family, given us a new identity, security, belonging, and an inheritance. Formation happens through fathering as we learn to receive His love, correction, guidance, and grace.

Sometimes we can live like spiritual orphans even though we are already children of God. We may become self-reliant, chase approval, build our identity around what we accomplish, or try to earn love instead of simply receiving it. Jesus illustrates this through the two sons in Luke 15. One son ran away and chose his own way, while the other stayed home but lived like a slave, believing he had to earn his father’s love. Both missed the Father’s heart. But the Father continued to call them “son.” Identity changes everything. When we know we belong to God, we no longer have to live for approval, performance, or our old desires. We can run to our Father when we fail, receive His forgiveness and correction, and allow Him to form us into who He has called us to be. When you know who you are, you will know what to do.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. What are some ways people today can end up building their identity around things like accomplishments, appearance, relationships, money, popularity, or what other people think of them? 3. Romans 8:15 says we have received the Spirit of adoption and can call God “Father.” Which part of being God’s child do you find easiest to receive: His love, His provision, His correction, His presence, or your belonging in His family? Which is hardest?
4. 1 Peter 1:14-16 calls us to live as “obedient children” who are set apart for God. What is one area of your life where knowing you are God’s child should change the way you respond or make decisions, and is there an old habit, desire, mindset, or way of seeking approval that you need to surrender to God this week? What’s one practical step you can take to live from your new identity instead?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, thank You that through Jesus we are no longer orphans, but Your beloved children. Help us receive Your love and allow You to form us into who You created us to be. Help us treat others with the same grace, patience, and love You have given us. Let the way we live as Your children show others what it looks like to belong to You. Amen



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sept 13, 2026 | Built Different pt.1 - Identity Changes Everything

MANNAYOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS: If your personality were a food, what would it be and why? Or "If someone asked your best friend, 'What makes you, you?' what do you think they would say?"

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Being a child of God means we are called to live differently. In 1 Peter 1:14-16, Peter calls us to live as obedient children and to be holy because God is holy. Being holy does not mean being perfect or never making mistakes. It means we belong to God and choose to live in a way that reflects Him. When we understand who we are, it changes how we live. Instead of always asking, "What am I supposed to do?" we can first ask, "Who am I, and what would God want me to do?" Whether we are at school, playing sports, with friends, or with our family, our identity in God should shape our choices.

When we put our faith in Jesus, we do not just add Him to the life we already have. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we become a new creation. The old life is gone and something new has begun. But becoming new does not mean we suddenly have everything figured out. We can still struggle with old habits, fears, attitudes, temptations, and ways of thinking. Romans 8:15 reminds us that we have received the Spirit of adoption and can call God "Abba, Father." We are not rescued by Jesus and then left to figure everything out by ourselves. God brings us into His family, gives us belonging, security, love, guidance, and an identity that does not depend on our grades, popularity, appearance, sports, friendships, or what other people think. As we grow closer to Him, He teaches us how to live as His children.

Sometimes we can act like we are on our own even though we are already children of God. We might chase likes and approval, compare ourselves to others, or feel like we have to prove ourselves to earn love. Jesus shows us this through the two sons in Luke 15. One son ran away and chose his own way, while the other stayed home but still felt like he had to earn his father's love. Both missed what it meant to truly be a son. But the Father continued to call them His sons and welcomed them back. When we know we belong to God, we do not have to live for approval or be controlled by our old habits and desires. We can run to our Father when we mess up, receive His forgiveness and correction, and let Him help us become who He created us to be. When you know who you are, you will know what to do.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. What are some things teens might use to figure out their identity (ex: sports, appearance, friendships, social media, relationships, what other people think)? Why can it be dangerous to let those things decide who you are? 3. Romans 8:15 says we have been adopted into God's family and can call Him "Father." What part of being God's child is easiest for you to believe: that He loves you, that you belong to Him, that He is with you, that He provides for you, or that He will guide and correct you? Which is hardest?
4. 1 Peter 1:14-16 calls us to live as God's children and be set apart for Him. What is one area of your life where knowing you belong to God should change the way you live or make decisions? Is there an old habit, mindset, or need for approval that you need to surrender to God this week? **ACTION STEP:** What is one practical step you can take this week to live from your identity as God's child instead of trying to prove yourself to others?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, thank You that through Jesus we are Your beloved children. Help us remember who we are in You and not let grades, sports, friendships, popularity, or other people's opinions define us. Help us receive Your love, follow Your direction, and become more like Jesus. Let the way we live at home, at school, with our friends, and everywhere we go show others what it means to belong to You. Amen.

We have Water Baptism happening on September 20th at Nimitz Cove 3:30pm! If you're interested in being baptized, you can find more information and sign up here: [Water Baptism & Child Dedications - https://www.hawaii.manna.church/baptisms-child-dedications](https://www.hawaii.manna.church/baptisms-child-dedications)

Referenced Scripture: Luke 15:29-32, Hebrews 12:7-11, John 1:12-13

1 Peter 1:14-16 *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. ¹⁵ But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; ¹⁶ for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.*

Identity changes _____!

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Romans 8:15 *For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!"*

Spirit of slavery = _____

Spirit of adoption = _____ with God

The essence of Paul's message in Romans 8:

God hasn't just released us from spiritual slavery; He _____ us into His household,

He gives us His family _____, He makes us heirs,

He gives us the Spirit so that we can approach Him

with the confidence and intimacy of beloved children and receive _____ in time of need.

Exodus 20:12 *Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*

1 Peter 1:14-16 *As **obedient children**, do not be conformed to the desires of your **former ignorance**. ¹⁵ But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; ¹⁶ for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.*

When you _____ who you are, you will _____ what to do.

Discussion Guide/Going Deeper:



Growth Track:



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