

EPHESIANS

Who Am I and Why Does it Matter?

Main Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-8

Identity—Who am I? (v 1-2)
(Eph 1:1)

Calling—What am I called to do? (v 7)

Assignment—Where is God leading me? (v 3, 5, 8)

Next Steps

Take a moment (or a day) to write out a statement that encapsulates your identity.

I am _____.

My identity is _____

_____.

My calling is _____.

My assignment is _____

_____.

Heartland Kids Weekend Bulletin

December 5-6, 2020



Ephesians 3:1-8

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. ⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,

Paul states his identity.

- Our identity is who we are. You could describe yourself as a sister, brother or friend.
- What the Bible tells us is that the most important part of our identity is Jesus. He should be the centre of who we are as a person.

My calling is an outflow of my identity.

- Our identity is what makes us act and be the people we are. If you say you're a kind person, people expect you to act nicely to other people.
- When Jesus Christ is our identity, the core of who we are, what we do and say points other people to Jesus. We are more patient with people and we speak and live like Jesus.

Out of identity comes calling, out of calling comes assignment.

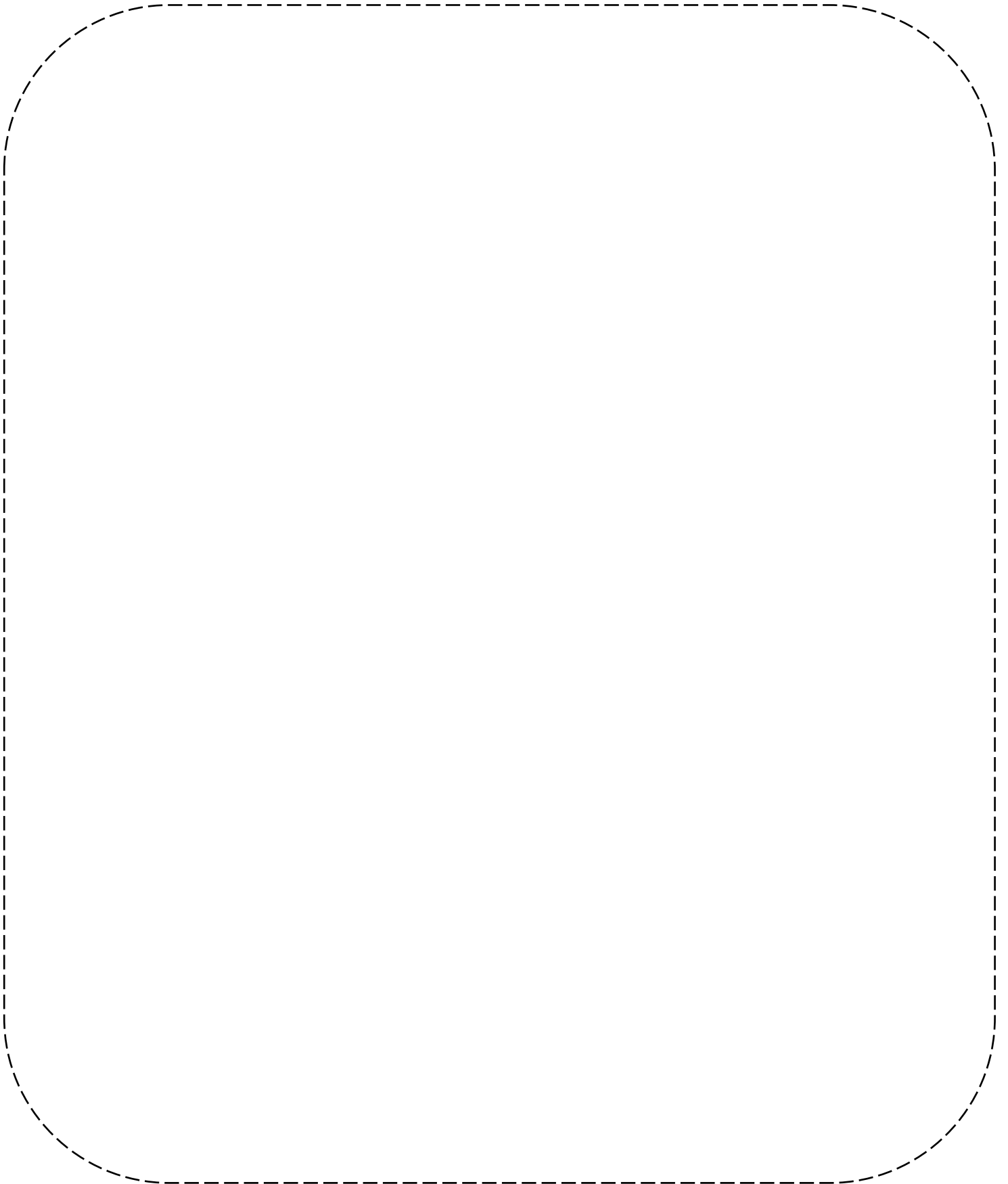
- When our identity is in Jesus, He lets us know what we should do with our lives. This can be bigger things like what job you'll have or smaller things like the words we choose to talk to our family every day.
- It is important to pray and ask God for help in every situation we're in. Remember, He loves you and wants to help you live the best life!

Some questions to discuss as a family:

Where does my identity come from?

How can I work to make Jesus Christ the centre of my identity?

Draw a picture of what you learned today.



Family Challenge

This week, make your family out of snowmen! Challenge each other to see who can build themselves most accurately! Or, draw names out of a hat and build someone else in your family.

We would love to see your snow family! Tag us in a picture on social media or send the pictures to kids@heartlandalliance.ca.

WHAT JESUS LOVES ABOUT ME!



How would Jesus describe your identity? In the boxes below, write (or draw) words you think Jesus would use to describe you!

A small, empty rounded square box with a green border, intended for writing or drawing a word.A large, empty rounded rectangle box with a green border, intended for writing or drawing words.A tall, empty rounded rectangle box with a green border, intended for writing or drawing words.A wide, empty rounded rectangle box with a green border, intended for writing or drawing words.A small, empty rounded square box with a green border, intended for writing or drawing a word.A small, empty rounded square box with a green border, intended for writing or drawing a word.A small, empty rounded square box with a green border, intended for writing or drawing a word.

DECEMBER 2020 | WEEK 1

Lights All A-glow

FAMILY ADVENT 

THIS WEEK

Take a stroll around a neighbourhood to admire the Christmas lights.

To give your post-activity discussion greater impact, have Mom, Dad or someone very special to your family remain at home while the rest of the family heads out to admire the festive lights. Walk or drive to a neighbourhood with a great Christmas light display. The location should be far enough away that your children would have difficulty finding their way home on their own. At some point during your adventure, call home and chat to the person waiting at home about what you've seen so far. The stay-at-home helper will play an important role in this lesson by greeting each child with a big hug or a very warm welcome on their return home.



BIBLE READINGS

Luke 2:1-7

John 1:1-3, 14 & 10

John 14:1-7

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Questions to ask when you get home:

- Did you enjoy going out to see the Christmas lights?
- Sometimes we passed a house that didn't have any Christmas lights on. How did the brightly lit houses look compared to the unlit ones?
- After we had been out for a while, did you know where you were? Would you have been able to find your way home?

The Bible tells us that Jesus willingly left heaven to be born on earth as a baby. We don't know what heaven is like, but we do know it's a place full of joy; there is no sadness, no pain and no disappointment. On earth, Jesus was no longer free of those things. He got cold, tired and hungry just like we do. As an adult he was bullied and mistreated.

It's hard for us to imagine what leaving heaven must have felt like, but when we see a house with no lights on beside one that is lit up and sparkling beautifully, it can remind us that Jesus willingly left heaven and became a human being for our sake.

When Jesus left heaven, He also left the joy of being with God the Father. Remember when we called home to talk to *[insert name here]* about the Christmas lights? Even though we could call and talk to them on the phone, it wasn't quite the same as them being here in person. When He was on earth, Jesus could talk to God in prayer like we do, but I'm sure it wasn't the same as being present with Him in heaven!

Jesus was born to teach us about God and to open the way for us to go to heaven when we die. Because of Jesus, one day we will be in heaven where we belong. We'll be welcomed home to heaven by God to receive the biggest, warmest welcome ever!

Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for being willing to come to earth and be our Saviour.

“Who Am I and Why Does It Matter?”

December 5 & 6, 2020



The Small Group Sermon Study
Ephesians 3:1-8

Opening Prayer: Father, in Jesus' name, through the Holy Spirit, come and speak to us, teach us and transform us as we read, discuss and reflect on Your word.

1. Big Picture: What did you like or appreciate about this message? What challenged you in this message?
2. Read the key passage(s) of Scripture from the message and review the points from the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:
 - a. What does this tell us about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit)? What do we learn about how He feels, what actions He takes, etc.?
 - b. What does this tell us about those who follow Jesus?
 - c. How do these points relate to us in community, and specifically to our small group?
 - d. How are we doing as a small group in living out our identity, calling and assignments?
 - e. What needs to change, and how will we change it?

Silently re-read the key Scripture(s) from the message, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

3. What emotions does this passage or key theme stir up in you?
4. Which of the three main points do you struggle most with on a personal level, and why?
5. What do you need to surrender to Jesus? How will you respond to what God is showing you?

Prayer: Spend time praying for one another (that we would grow in our love for God and others, that we would be transformed by what God has revealed, that we would be alert and obedient to God, etc.).