

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: THE BASICS

Week Three: Who Are We?

To the Teacher:

This month we will be reminding ourselves who we are at Missio Dei and what we believe. We will do this by using four questions: Who is God, What has He done, Who are we in light of this, and How can we now live? The Goal is that we can better understand ourselves as we more fully see God.

- **Big Idea:** Our identity comes from what God has done, not what we have done.
- **Question:** What does a bird do? What does a dog do? A monkey? How did you know? Because I told you what they were. Birds fly, dogs bark, and monkeys... do monkey things.
- **Story:** *'The Prison of Flight'*

This is the story of a rabbit who would run and hop about the forest happily, until one day he looked up and saw the birds. They would glide freely through the clouds, almost as if they could reach the sun, and he wanted to do the same. The snake slithered up and told him, "You can be just like them. You can do whatever you want, if you want it enough." The rabbit was, after all, able to leap with great height off the ground, so it wasn't hard to believe the snake.

So he practiced. He would jump just high enough to give him hope that he too could fly, until gravity suddenly pulled him back down. And this was his prison.

He would leap day and night with all his might and feel the wind beneath his feet, only to feel the despair of falling to the ground. He would think, "Just a little higher. Maybe this next time. Maybe if I work harder." And the cycle would repeat.

*One day the owl saw the rabbit. "You do not look very happy at all," said the owl. "Of course I'm not!" said the rabbit. "I'm doing all I can but I'll never be like you or the birds. I'll never be able to fly." "You poor thing," replied the owl. "You are miserable because you are trying to **do** what you are not meant to **be**. You must first **be** what you are, before you can **do** what you can. Who told you you were meant to fly, after all?"*

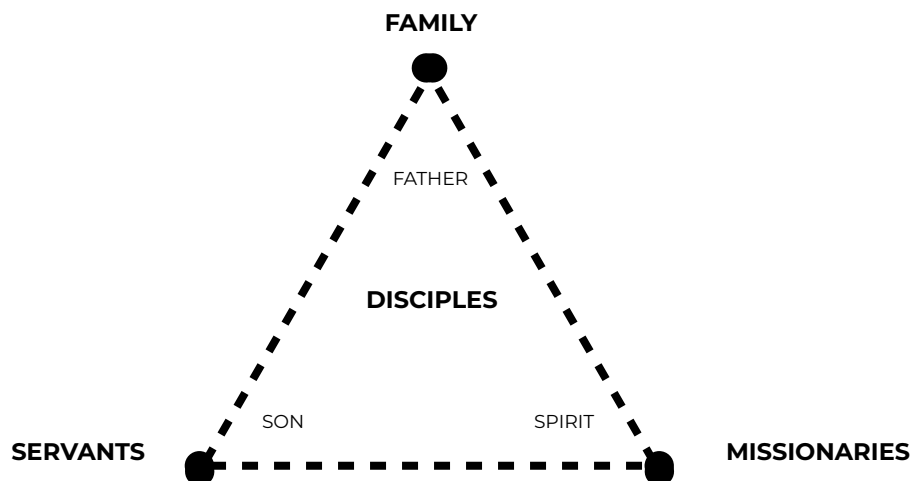
*“The serpent told me I was close and only needed to try a little harder.”
 “Ah”, said the owl. “That old snake is jealous because he can neither fly nor run. But he knows if he gets you distracted trying to fly, he will be able to sneak up on you and devour you. You, my dear rabbit, are meant to run.”*

The rabbit thought about what the owl said. The more he thought, the more he realized the owl was right. The less the rabbit tried to fly, the more grateful he was for how high he could hop. Not only that, but he learned how fast he was on the ground. He could certainly outrun the snake! And when the rabbit would run like he was meant to, he kept the pace for all the other creatures in the forest to follow.

[Things to Point Out]

- Why do you think the rabbit was unhappy?
 - He was trying to be something he was not created to be
 - He believed the lie of the snake
- When the rabbit realized what he was, he was then able to live doing the things rabbits do
- We must know first what we were created to **be** before we can learn what we were created to **do**
- What were you and I created to be?

Let’s take a look at 4 identities God has given us through the work of Jesus
You may choose to draw this diagram to show our identity comes from who God is...



- **Scriptures:**

***Have the kids listen for the **identities** we have in Christ*

1) **Romans 8:14-16**, “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **15** The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Daddy, Father.” **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

Who are we? **FAMILY**

God is our Father, we are His children, and brothers and sisters to each other.

2) **Mark 10:43-45**, “...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **44** and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. **45** For even the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Who are we? **SERVANTS**

Jesus, our King, served us to the point of giving up his very life. So, we serve Jesus as our King, and we serve him by serving people too.

3) **Acts 1:8**, “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Who are we? **MISSIONARIES**

Jesus was sent in the power of the Spirit on a mission to bring us back to God. When he saves us, he gives us the power of his Spirit to share his good news so others might be saved.

4) **Colossians 3:16**, “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and encourage one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

Who are we? **LEARNERS** or **DISCIPLES**

God has made a way for us to know Him through the Spirit, His Word, and a community of believers who encourage and teach us.

2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”

- **Prayer:**
God, thank You for giving us a new identity in Jesus. Help us to believe it.
Amen!

- **Craft:**
 - *Use the butterfly coloring sheet attached. Butterflies transform from caterpillars. They take on a new identity, like we do when we are born new into our identity in Christ.*

- **BLESS Activity:**
For kids to do during the week
 - **Sabbath:** We can rest in our new identities in Christ because he has done the work. Find some ways to rest this week with your family.

