CHARIS YOUTH

Series: New Identity

Lesson 2: New Identity Through the Holy Spirit

About This Lesson

Praise the Lord that we have the Holy Spirit to help us live out our new identity in Christ. This lesson examines Peter's life and how his identity changed. When he embraced it and with the Holy Spirit's help, he made a powerful impact on the world.

Key Takeaway: We are under the New Covenant and receive a new identity the moment we believe in Jesus! We need the gift/promise of the Holy Spirit to walk out our new identity.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Teaching Outline:

I. PETER'S JOURNEY – HIS NEW IDENTITY

A. Peter meets Jesus.

John 1:40–42 *One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.* [41] *He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).* [42] *And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).*

1. Andrew isn't mentioned much in Scripture, but he led his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. Thousands upon thousands were saved during Peter's ministry. Don't hesitate to tell someone about Jesus!

2. Verse 42, "*You are Simon…You shall be called Cephas (Aramaic, meaning a stone).*" Greek translation is Petros, Peter. Simon's name was changed to Peter the moment He encountered Jesus.
    a. The moment you encounter Jesus, you are given a new identity.
    b. Peter probably didn't physically feel a change, but his identity was changed nonetheless. Jesus called him a stone. Identity isn't based on feelings.

3. The Gospels give us a picture of Peter's temperament. He tended to be emotional, have a hot temper (trying to kill the high priest's servant), and be unpredictable and unreliable (didn't stand up for Jesus but cussed that He didn't know him). Jesus called him a stone, something reliable, unemotional, unchanging, and predictable.

4. It doesn't matter what you feel—you are who Jesus says you are!

B. Peter's confession.
Matthew 16:15–19 *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" [16] Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." [17] Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. [18] And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. [19] And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*
    1. Simon Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Knowing Jesus is the first step in finding your new identity. You have to know Jesus before you know who you are in Him.
    2. V. 18, Jesus switches and calls him by a new name, Peter (Petros- small rock) and a new identity, upon this rock (petra- large rock) I will build my church.
    3. V. 19, As believers, we have spiritual authority in God's kingdom.

C. Peter is baptized in the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2:1–4 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. [3] Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon*

each of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation and water baptism.
2. V. 4, "They began to speak with other tongues." They began and continued doing it throughout their lives.
3. Peter received boldness to preach, witness, and perform signs and wonders.
   Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

D. The Holy Spirit gives us the POWER to be a witness.
   Acts 4:33 *And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.*
   1. The Holy Spirit is a sign of God's grace. His grace and the ministry of the Holy Spirit go hand-in-hand.

   2. The Holy Spirit enables signs and wonders to be done!
      Acts 14:3 *Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.*

   3. If the early disciples needed the Holy Spirit, don't you? YES
      a. Give the young people an opportunity to take a step of faith and receive Christ as their Savior and begin their new identity in Him. Also lead them in a prayer to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Bottom Line:
The moment that you encounter Jesus and believe in Him, you are transformed. You are a new creation and receive a new identity. You can also ask and receive the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. You need the power of the Holy Spirit to walk out your new identity!

Small Group Time:

1. You are a new creation the moment you believe in Jesus. Your old identities change to your new identities in Christ.

> Death to life: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
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> Fear to faith: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).
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> Anxiety to peace: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).
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> Poverty to riches: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (the grace of giving), that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).
>
> Sickness to health: "By His stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

- Which of those changes would you like to see in your life?
- How can the Holy Spirit help you change to that new identity?

2. We need the gift/promise of the Holy Spirit to walk out our new identity.
John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

- When have you asked the Holy Spirit for help? What happened?
- What keeps you from asking the Holy Spirit to help you more often? Are you willing to commit to asking the Holy Spirit to help you each day this week?

Declaration:
"I have a new identity in Christ and live it out with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers me with gifts to use for God's kingdom."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What are you asking the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?
- **Pray:** Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and ask Him to help you with specific needs or changes to your identity this week.
- **Read:** Matthew 26:69–75 about Peter's denial of Christ. Then read about Peter's restoration with Jesus in John 21:15–19. When Peter denied Jesus, he was acting in his old identity, but Jesus restored him to his new identity. Maybe you know people who have turned away from Jesus. Pray for them to return! When they come back, they will be stronger than ever!
- **Live It:** Choose an aspect of your new identity in Christ and look for opportunities each day to acknowledge it. For example, when you're anxious, stop and say, "I have peace because the Holy Spirit is in me."
- **Create:** Use the following phrase to create a meme, poem, artwork, song, or social media post to help people know they can have a new identity in Christ. "The moment you believe in Jesus, you are a new creation with a totally new identity."

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What teacher has impacted you the most, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Look online for the video and lyrics to "Identity," by Colton Dixon and sing the song. The song emphasizes that God alone is our identity.

Opening Affirmation: "I am who God says I am. The old me is gone, and by faith I believe God's promises to me."

Giving Time: Psalm 112:1–3 *Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who delights greatly in His commandments. [2] His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. [3] Wealth and riches will be in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.*

The Bible promises blessings on anyone who fears God and obeys His commandments. We will be blessed, and our descendants will be blessed by our choice to follow God. Our descendants will be mighty on the earth, and we will have

wealth and riches. We don't give to get rich, we give out of obedience and receive God's blessings. God can't break His promises, so prepare to receive His blessings.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: This week, challenge the young people to pray in tongues for five minutes each day, or longer! Encourage them to write down any signs and wonders or ways the Holy Spirit helped them through a revelation or word of knowledge. Next week, have them share the ways they saw the Holy Spirit work in their lives. If they can build a habit of relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, just think of how that will impact them and the people around them!

Biblical Worldview: People are searching for a source of power to help them live. Some turn to Buddhism or meditation to help them gain inner power to deal with life. Those without a biblical worldview don't know that God gave the Holy Spirit as the believer's Helper. As the young people recognize the source of power they have to help them live the Christian life, they can tell their friends about how the Holy Spirit helps them have peace, love, and joy as their new identity.

Outreach/Missions: You need to know Jesus before you can know who you are in Him. Many people around the world have never heard about Jesus dying for their sins, and many people in your city have never heard the salvation message. Take time for the young people to gather with a partner and pray for specific people or people groups around the world to learn that Jesus forgives them and offers them a new identity.