CHARIS YOUTH

Series: New Identity

Lesson 3: The Process of Living Your New Identity

About This Lesson

This lesson completes the New Identity series by guiding the youth to understand the process that helps them live out their new identity and not return to aspects of their old identity. The goal is for them to realize they need to participate in the process by choosing to follow Jesus, putting off the old identity, renewing their mind, and living out their new identity in Christ.

Key Takeaway: The moment you believed in Jesus, you became a new creation. You have a God-given purpose in life. Stay in the Word and keep trusting God for direction as you walk out this life in your 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. PAUL'S PROCESS TO LIVE OUT HIS NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST

A. Process Step #1: Encounter Jesus
John 3:3 *"Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

1. When you encounter Jesus, you are given a new identity. You will never be the same. You are transformed. You are given a new identity. You are given a purpose. Paul went from murdering Christians to an apostle leading people to Jesus. The change happened instantly, but there was a process for Paul to understand his new identity in Christ and live it out.

2. Paul recounted the process of his conversion to King Agrippa (Acts 26:9-23).
    a. Verse 9, Paul thought his purpose was to do things against the name of Jesus.
    b. V.11, Paul was consumed with hatred for the Christians and murdered them.
    c. V. 16, Jesus spoke to Paul and gave him a new purpose.
    d. V. 18, Jesus wants everyone to receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance by faith in Me.
    e. V. 19, Paul was not disobedient. He followed Jesus.
    f. V. 20, Paul declared that they should repent, turn to God, and live out their new identity.

3. What could have caused such a radical transformation in Paul's life? He became a new person with a new identity when he was born again! When you believe in Jesus, you are born again.

B. Process Step #2: Put Off the Old Man
Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
    1. The old man is dead. Christ lives in you!
    2. Don't identify with your old self. Identify with who you are in Christ!
        a. I am no longer a slave to sin. I am a child of God.
        b. I am not trying to please God. He is already pleased with me. He already poured out His grace in my life. I can now respond and live by faith! I will not live by fear.
    3. Know that you are complete in Him!
    Colossians 2:9-10 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

C. Process Step #3: Renew Your Mind
Romans 12:1–2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
    1. As soon as you believe in Jesus, you are given a new identity and continually renew your mind to be established in that identity!

2. Just because you have a new identity doesn't mean it will always be easy to walk it out. Right after Paul encountered Jesus, he lost his sight and couldn't eat for 3 days. He was initially rejected by the Christian community, then accepted, and later had to escape because the Jews were out to kill him.
    a. Share a story about how the enemy tried to put a stumbling block in your pathway.
3. The enemy wants to challenge your new identity. The devil tried to tempt Jesus by challenging His identity by saying, "If you are the Son of God."
    a. He will also try to challenge your identity.
4. People will challenge that identity. When Paul was converted, other Christians didn't believe it at first.
    a. The world will challenge your new identity.
5. Renew your mind by staying in the Word of God!!!
   Proverbs 4:20-23 My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. [21] Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; [22] For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. [23] Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.
    a. The word brings life!
    b. The word brings health!
    c. You must actively guard your heart!

D. Process Step #4: Walk Out Your Purpose—God Will Give You Direction
Acts 26:16 *But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.*

1. God often reveals his plans for you in stages.
2. You have to stay in faith. Without faith it is impossible to please him.
3. Asking the Lord, "What do you want me to do?" is a GREAT QUESTION!
   Acts 9:6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, Lord, what do You want me to do? Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."
4. Too many people tell God what they want to do and ask Him to make it happen. Don't try to make God your servant. Serve Him and follow His direction! Let Him be your master!
5. Keep walking with God. Keep trusting Him. Stay rooted in grounded in Jesus!

6. Faith is a continual process. When you believed on Jesus, your faith switch turned on. Keep it on! He will guide you and bring you revelation.
   Psalm 37:23–24 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD, upholds him with His hand.*

7. Keep trusting God for direction in life. Keep confessing who you are in Christ!
   a. I am not a sinner. I am the righteousness of God in Christ.
   b. I have been born again by the incorruptible, indestructible, ever-living seed of the word of God.
   c. I am not a failure. I am a victor. Greater is He that is in me than He that is in the world.
   d. If God be for me, then who can be against me?
   e. God is not against me. He is for me! He loves me! I am his kid! I am his favorite kid!
   f. I do not lack ability. I do not lack opportunity. I am a tither. I am a giver. Money comes to me.
   g. I am blessed by the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth.

Bottom Line:
Don't identify with your old self. Identify with who you are in Christ, and renew your mind by staying in the Word of God!

Small Group Time:

1. Ephesians 4:22–24 tells us to "put off" the old man, our old identity, and replace it with "putting on" the new man, our new identity.
Ephesians 4:22–24 That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, [23] and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, [24] and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
   - What practical ways can you put off the old man and the old identity?
   - What would your thoughts be like towards your parents if you renewed your mind and lived out your new identity in Christ?

2. In this series, we talked about Abraham's faith to believe his new identity from God, Peter lived out his new identity with the power of the Holy Spirit, and Paul showed us the process he went through to accept and live out his new identity in Christ.

- Which of these biblical examples inspired you the most, and why?
- If you were to be mentored by one of these men, what would you want them to teach you about identity?

Declaration:
"I choose to renew my mind with what God says about me and live my new identity in Christ."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What is your biggest challenge in living out your new identity, and what will help you succeed in that area?
- **Pray:** Ask God to show you strategies to successfully live out your new identity successfully.
- **Read:** Philippians 4:8 every day. This verse lists eight things to think on as you renew your mind. Focus on one trait each day and then live it!
- **Live It:** Write on a 3 x 5 card each of the traits of Philippians 4:8 and place them on your mirror or around your room. On the card, write down some "renewed mind" statements that use that trait, such as true – I will speak truthfully. When you live it out by being truthful, put a check mark by that statement. See how many statements you can live out this week.
- **Create:** Make a collage of words and pictures from magazines or online that recap what you've learned about your new identity.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: As a child, what word did you mispronounce that your parents thought was funny?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Invite volunteers, who want to think quickly to make a "how to do" something list, to the front of the room. One at a time, hand each person a slip of paper with a topic and have that person quickly name the process to make the item. Topics: making a homemade pizza, getting a puppy, promoting a bake sale, making an airline reservation, and putting together a new shelving unit. Allow the group to tell any steps in the process that were left out. Point out that all of these steps were necessary to enjoy the completed task. In today's lesson, we will see the step-by-step process to living out your new identity in Christ.

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: Romans 10:14–15, 17 *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? [15] And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:*
"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" …[17] So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Not everyone has heard about Jesus like you have. The only way for people to hear about salvation is for someone to tell them in person or online or for them to read a Bible. Giving to the church enables us to buy Bibles, do outreach, and support missionaries. Your giving helps people hear the Good News!

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: What confessions are you saying that show you aren't living out your new identity in Christ? Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45). This week write down something you hear yourself say that reflects your old identity, such as "I never get to be chosen first." Then, find what God says your new identity, such as "I have favor with God. I have favor with man. And I have a good understanding." Write that down and repeat it several times every day until it becomes rooted in your identity and how you see yourself.

Biblical Worldview: A biblical worldview uses scriptures as the guide to renew the mind. Young people who live their biblical worldview have a new identity that they received at salvation. They know it is possible to change their thoughts by speaking and living what the Bible says. Encourage the young people to use their influence to show others that they are a new creation in Christ and others can experience what they have found in Jesus!

Outreach/Missions: The first step in the process of living out your new identity is accepting Christ as your Savior. Guide the young people in praying for the salvation of their friends. Next, have them pray for family members who need to accept Jesus as their Savior. Then, invite them to pray for people they follow on social media, celebrities, sports figures, and other influencers to receive forgiveness of their sins and live out their new identity.