

The background is a light blue gradient. The top half is filled with numerous white question marks of varying sizes. The bottom half features a pattern of light blue human silhouettes. The main title 'Guess Who?' is prominently displayed in the center.

Guess Who?

A Series On Who We Are and Why We Are Here

A stylized blue water drop graphic that frames the text on the left side of the page.

the
**water's
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April 16 – May 28
2023





Week 1: You are God's Child

Main Point: God has adopted us as His sons and daughters. This is the foundation of our identity. As children of God, we are loved unconditionally and given certain privileges and responsibilities.

Lean into the Topic

1. Take a few minutes to write an answer to the question, "Who am I?" How would you describe yourself? What words would you use? What is important and unique about you? Share with your House Church, family, or a friend as you are comfortable.

2. Take a minute to rank the following based on how central they are to your identity. Share with your House Church or a friend why you ranked them in this order.

- ___ Career/Education/Skills
- ___ Belonging to a particular family or being a spouse/parent
- ___ Appearance/Image
- ___ Relationship with God
- ___ Other: _____

3. Do you believe your identity is constantly changing or mostly stays the same throughout your life? Why?



Look at God's Word

Read Romans 8:14-17.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

1. Children have certain privileges and responsibilities in the family. What are some of the privileges of being a child of God? What are some of the responsibilities of being a child of God?
2. What changes in us and in our lives when we are adopted by God?

Read 1 John 3:1.

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.

3. God's love is beyond human love. God's love is eternal, personal, intentional, unconditional, generous, and purifying. Which aspect of God's love means the most to you right now and why?
4. God is often referred to as a parent. How does the relationship and love between a parent and child reflect the relationship and love between us and God?
5. We all have unique experiences when it comes to our parents. All human parents are imperfect, while God's love is perfect. In what ways did your parents reflect the love of God well? In what ways did your parents fall short?
6. How can our experience with our own parents affect our views on God as a parent?
7. If you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or in any type of relationship with children, how can you reflect God's love to them?



Look Inward

1. Have you ever struggled with your own identity? How so?
2. Describe a time in your life when your identity was clear to you. Why was it so clear at that time?
3. The theologian J.I. Packer famously wrote, “If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much they make of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as a Father.” How does the fact that God is your Father change the way you think, feel, and act?
4. What does being a child of God mean to you?

Look Outward

1. How does the world try to shape or influence our understanding of our identity?
2. How can we live out our identity as a child of God this week? How does it affect the way we act and treat others?

Who Am I?

Write down three things that are true about you because you are a child of God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer Requests

Write down prayer requests from your House Church, family, or for yourself.
Make time to pray over these this week.



Week 2: You Have a Purpose

Main Point: None of us are here by accident. God has created us for a purpose. We are meant to have an impact on the world and on other people.

Lean into the Topic

1. Take a few minutes to write an answer to the question, “What is my purpose?”
Share with your House Church, family, or a friend as you are comfortable.

2. Take a minute to rank the following based on where you find the most purpose.
Share with your House Church or a friend why you ranked them in this order.

- ___ Career or Professional Life
- ___ Family Life
- ___ Other Hobbies/Activities
- ___ Church and Service Activities
- ___ Other: _____

3. Who is someone you know that you believe is living out their purpose? How can you tell?



Look at God's Word

Read Ephesians 2:10.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things God planned for us long ago.

1. Ephesians tells us we are masterpieces created for a purpose. Is this easy or hard for you to believe about yourself? Why?
2. How can a closer relationship with Jesus help us "do the good things God planned for us long ago"?

Read Isaiah 49:3-4.

God said to Isaiah, "You are my servant, Israel, and you will bring me glory."

Isaiah replied, "But my work seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and to no purpose. Yet I leave it all in the Lord's hand; I will trust God for my reward."

3. Have you ever felt like Isaiah? That you are working hard but for no purpose?

Read Isaiah 49:5-6.

And now the Lord speaks—the one who formed me in my mother's womb to be his servant, who commissioned me to bring Israel back to him. The Lord has honored me, and my God has given me strength. He says, "You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

4. How does God respond to Isaiah feeling worthless and without purpose?
5. How could this passage be reassuring for us when we're feeling worthless and without purpose?
6. Describe a time when your words or actions served a larger purpose than you were initially aware of.



Look Inward

1. When we are feeling unsure about what God’s purpose or plan is for us, how can we find clarity?
2. Describe a time when you really felt like you were living out God’s purpose for yourself. How did you know? How did it feel?
3. What are some obstacles or challenges that keep us from living out our purpose?
4. Purpose happens over a lifetime and in a moment. What are some examples of a lifetime purpose? What are some examples of daily purpose?

Look Outward

1. What are some purposes in life that people chase after that are not from God?
2. What is a purpose that God may have for you this week? How can you live out that purpose?

Who Am I?

Write down three things that you learned about your purpose.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer Requests

Write down prayer requests from your House Church, family, or for yourself.

Make time to pray over these this week.



Week 3: You are a Priest

Main Point: As God’s priest, we can do what was unthinkable for so many followers of God for so many years. We can enter God’s presence without fear and shame. We can communicate directly with God. As God’s priests, we also are responsible for representing God to the people and inviting them into a relationship with God.

Lean into the Topic

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “priest”?
2. Are the images of priest in your mind and in pop culture helpful or hurtful in understanding the unique role of a priest? In what ways do they help or hurt?
3. What role does (or should) a priest play in a community? What characteristics should a priest have? What makes for a good priest?

A Note on the Topic

A priest in the Bible is different from a Catholic priest as we know it today. In the Old Testament, a priest had a special role in the community. A priest cared for the sacred space of the temple, represented the people to God, and announced God's blessing over the people. The high priest was the only one who could enter the innermost part of the temple, the Most Holy Place, where they believed God dwelled. These priests had special access to God and were responsible for keeping the community in good relationship with God.

Look at God's Word

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1. This passage does not refer to an individual, but to a community. How does the church as a whole act as a "chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation" in our community? How does the church "declare the praises of (God)"?

Read Hebrews 10:19-22.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

2. In the Old Testament, it was believed that God lived in the Most Holy Place in the temple and only priests were allowed to enter and be in God's presence. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, everyone can now enter the Most Holy Place and has full access to God. What does full access to God do for us?
3. If Jesus is the great High Priest in Hebrews 10, what does it mean for us to be a royal priesthood in 1 Peter 2?
4. What privileges do we get by being a priest?
5. What responsibilities do we have as a priest?



Look Inward

1. How does knowing that you are a royal priesthood shape the way you see yourself, God, others, and the world?
2. In the Old Testament, priests had three distinct roles; offering sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins, teaching the laws and commands of God, and communicating to God on behalf of their people.
 - a. How can we decrease guilt and shame and increase forgiveness in our communities?
 - b. What are some practical ways we can teach others about God?
 - c. How often do you communicate or pray to God on behalf of other people? How can you do this more often?

Look Outward

1. How can I serve as a priest in the world this week?
2. What priestly role do I need to grow in?

Who Am I?

Write down three things that are true about you because you are a priest.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer Requests

Write down prayer requests from your House Church, family, or for yourself. Make time to pray over these this week.



Week 4: You are a Stranger in This World

Main Point: This world is no longer our home because our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). Because we no longer identify this as our primary home, we are effectively strangers or aliens here. We are not supposed to fully fit in. We are supposed to be a bit weird. We are supposed to look different. We live by different standards, serve a different King, and have different goals than the rest of the world.

Lean into the Topic

1. Have you ever been in a new setting or situation where you didn't fit in? What made you stand out or different than the majority?
2. What are some ways we try to conform or blend into the crowd so that we fit in?
3. Do you typically prefer to stand out or fit in? Why?



Look at God's Word

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12.

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

1. What does it mean to be a “temporary resident and foreigner” on earth? What does this mean for our identity?
2. If our permanent residence is in heaven, what does that mean for us today?

Read Romans 12:2.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3. In what ways should Christians look different from the rest of the world?
4. Which area of your life looks most like the world? (Examples: relationships, marriage, parenting, professional life, hobbies, finances, words, appearance, etc.)
5. What area of your life looks most different from the world?
6. Why is it tempting to want to conform to the behaviors and customs of this world?
7. What are some of the benefits of not conforming to the world?



Look Inward

1. Would random neighbors or acquaintances know that you are a Christian? Why or why not?
2. How can we live *in* this world, while not being *of* this world?
3. Why is it good news that we are strangers in this world?
4. What's hard about being a stranger in this world?

Look Outward

1. Do most Christians that you know stand out from the world or fit in with the world? How so?
2. We are not strangers that are antagonistic or indifferent to our current home. We are a light of hope in a broken world. How can we live as residents of heaven this week in a way that blesses others?

Who Am I?

Write down three things that are true about you because you are a stranger in this world.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer Requests

Write down prayer requests from your House Church, family, or for yourself. Make time to pray over these this week.



Week 5: You are Created in God's Image

Main Point: We are created in God's image. We have been given special abilities and responsibilities. We reflect this image in the world by looking, speaking, acting, loving, creating, and living like God.

Lean into the Topic

1. Do you tend to look more like your mother or father?
2. If you have children, do they look more like you or the other parent?
3. To be created in God's image means more than just appearance. What non-physical traits have you inherited from your parents? What non-physical traits have your children inherited from you?



Look at God's Word

Read Genesis 1:26-27.

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.

1. Why do you think God wanted to create human beings in His image?
2. What do you think God meant when He said humans will "reign over" the other animals on earth?
3. God says human beings will "be like us". In what ways are we like God?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.

Whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.

4. How do we "reflect the glory of the Lord"?
5. If we are already created in God's image, why do we still need to be made "more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image"?
6. In what ways can we grow more and more like God?



Look Inward

1. What does it mean to you to be created in the image of God? What characteristics of human beings are in the image of God?
2. If we are created in the image of God, what does that tell us about our identity?
3. Do you find the fact that you are created in God’s image more encouraging or intimidating? How so?
4. In what area of your life do you most reflect the image of God?
5. In what area of your life do you struggle to reflect the image of God?

Look Outward

1. How does recognizing that everyone we meet is created in the image of God change how we treat them?
2. How can you reflect the image of God better this week?


Who Am I?

Write down three things that are true about you because you are created in God’s image.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer Requests

Write down prayer requests from your House Church, family, or for yourself. Make time to pray over these this week.



Week 6: You are a Servant

Main Point: The early Christians, even the human writers of the books in the Bible, kept insisting they were servants. They embraced their identity of belonging to God and offering themselves in service to God and others. We are not servants forced to serve, we are servants who serve freely and joyfully.

Lean into the Topic

1. Have you ever worked as a server in the food industry or another industry? What was it like to be a server? How did people treat you?
2. Describe a time you served whether on a mission trip, a service project, or in another setting. What was that experience like for you?
3. What was hard about serving? What were some blessings from serving?

Look at God's Word

Read Mark 10:42-45.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1. Why are humans drawn towards power, authority, and high positions?
2. Serving is often viewed as a low position. Jesus says those who serve will be considered great among others. How can serving make us great?
3. Even Jesus was a servant. How did Jesus serve the world? How has Jesus served you personally?

Read Galatians 5:13.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

4. What does it mean to be free?
5. Why would we use our freedom to serve others?

Look Inward

1. On a scale of 1-10, 10 being 'always' and 1 being 'never', how often do you feel you are serving others in your daily life?
2. What are some of the excuses, obstacles, or challenges that keep us from serving more often?
3. Do you think it's possible to live with a servant mindset at all times? Why?
4. How would your life change if being a servant was a core part of your identity?
5. God doesn't *need* anything from us. So what does it mean to serve a God that doesn't need anything?
6. Theologian Frederick Buechner wrote about finding our place to serve in the world. He said, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger meet". Where is a place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger might meet? How could you serve in this place?



Look Outward

1. What is one way you can serve others this week?
2. What is a bigger service project that you could take on this year?
3. Have you ever considered going on a mission trip, either here in the U.S. or overseas? What is keeping you from making that commitment? What would it take for you to sign up?

Who Am I?

Write down three things that are true about you because you are a servant.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer Requests

Write down prayer requests from your House Church, family, or for yourself. Make time to pray over these this week.



Week 7: You are God's Ambassador

Main Point: Because of all that God has done for us, we want to tell the whole world about it. We are ambassadors for Christ and represent Him with our words, actions, and lives. We share God's hope and love with a broken world.

Lean into the Topic

1. How would you define an ambassador? What do they do?
2. What are some qualities of a good ambassador?
3. What are some qualities of a bad ambassador?
4. Who is someone who was an ambassador for Christ to you? How did they share Christ's love and message with you? What was different about their lives that made you notice them? How did they encourage you?



Look at God's Word

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

1. What is the "message of reconciliation"? How can we share this message with others?
2. This passage says our message as ambassadors is, "Come back to God!" Standing on a street corner screaming that at people probably won't work. What are some effective and loving ways we can encourage people to "come back to God"?
3. How does God "make His appeal" to others through us?

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

4. How can we be light in a dark world?
5. What are some ways that light gets put under a basket?
6. What are some ways we can let that light "shine out for all to see"?



Look Inward

1. When we read a good book, find a great restaurant, or buy the perfect new piece of technology, we want to tell everyone and encourage them to read, eat and buy it too. What are some of the good things God has done in your life that you want other people to experience too?
2. How could the ordinary moments of your life be sacred opportunities to represent Christ?
3. What obstacles and challenges keep us from being good ambassadors for Christ?
4. What are some examples you've seen of Christians being poor or harmful ambassadors for Christ?
5. How would your life change if being an ambassador for Christ was a core part of your identity?

Look Outward

1. Who is someone in your life that you know doesn't have a relationship with Jesus? How could their life change if they did?
2. What is one way you can be an ambassador for Christ this week?

Who Am I?

Write down three things that are true about you because you are God's ambassador.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer Requests

Write down prayer requests from your House Church, family, or for yourself.

