

# WHO AM I?

FORMING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST



FOUR WEEK SERIES  
VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM

**vineyard**youth

# WHO AM I?

## | FORMING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST |

# WELCOME!

## to Vineyard Youth Curriculum

**Hello, friends.** What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. As youth leaders in the Vineyard movement, we believe that the work we do with students will have much influence on what the movement will look like over the next ten to twenty years.

We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you—the in-the-trenches leader to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

### Each lesson will include:

- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to live and reveal the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions.
- Times for you as the leader to tune into what God is doing in you and your students' lives.
- Times for students to hear from God for themselves

This curriculum is written by youth leaders for youth leaders. If you would like to join the team and contribute your voice to the conversation, we would love to hear from you.

You may not hear this enough, but thank you for what you do. It's important, it's needed, and it's laying the foundation for a new generation of leaders to continue the good things God has already done in the Vineyard movement. Keep up the good work!

## Why This Topic?

For anyone who has ever been a teenager, you know that discovering "who you are" is a huge part of that time of life. What do I care about? What defines "me?" Who are my friends? How do I want to live my life in relationship to all that's going on around me?

To that end, we have endeavored to create a starting point for this discussion in your youth group. This certainly doesn't come close to being exhaustive. But we think it lays a foundation of the most important part of our identity: who God says we are.

## Connecting to Vineyard Values

We intentionally connect our curriculum to Vineyard Values and Distinctives. This series connects to the Vineyard Distinctive "The Main and the Plain." This is the Vineyard's commitment to teaching the main and plain teachings of Jesus, and by his grace and Spirit, learning to live by them. You can read more about these here:

<https://vineyardusa.org/about/vineyard-distinctives/>

## Helpful Reminders For You, the Youth Leader

In working with this curriculum there are a few ideas we'd like to keep in front of you:

**Plug in your stories** wherever you can. These are bare bones here. You add the meat!

**Experiential learning lasts.** We've tried to make this as experiential as possible, rather than just providing head knowledge. We encourage you the leader to try it out—take some risks!

**Humor is key.** It's hard for us to artificially add this from a distance, but we encourage you to find all chances you can to connect through humor.

**Context matters.** We don't know what's going on in your group right now, but you do. We encourage you to pray and think about how this message applies to the new ones in your group, the veterans, and the seekers. How does this tie into the message of salvation through Jesus?

## These Lessons Are on Video!

Go to [www.vineyardyouthusa.com/resources](http://www.vineyardyouthusa.com/resources) to view the video teaching for this series. Each lesson is taught by Christian Dunn, and you can follow along with the written version.

# I AM LOVED

## BIG IDEA

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

## STARTER

### I AM LOVED NO MATTER WHAT

Take this verse and meditate on it for a while as you prepare for this lesson. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you, for you. Not for your students. Just for you:

#### **Ephesians 3:17–19**

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

#### **Who are you?**

Let students attempt to answer this without much leading at first, and then you can press into it a little.

#### **How do you decide what words to use to define yourself?**

Who are you? Are you what you do—what you are good at? Are you defined by your family or friends? Are you what you think? Or how you dress? Are you defined by what others think about you or say about you? Are you what others view you to be? Are you defined by your successes or maybe your failures? What makes you, you?

**This series we want to go through several truths about who you are based on who God says you are.**

- What if we are more than what others say about us?
- What if we are more than the roles we fill or the talents we have?
- What if we are more than our best moments and our worst moments?

**What if instead of looking to culture, or ourselves, or others, we looked to the Bible and what God says about us first? That's the plan for this series.**

Today we are talking about the first one: I am loved, no matter what.

## DISCUSS

## LESSON

What is love? If you had to describe love to someone who had never heard of or seen love before, what words or actions would you use to describe it?

### Main Point: I am loved, no matter what.

#### 1. It All Started With Love

##### Genesis 1:

In the beginning we see God creating a beautiful garden in which relationship with God and each other can happen. This is our identity as he intended it to be. We are to be loved.

##### Video:

Watch the Bible Project Video, Genesis 1–11 Overview (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/genesis-1-11/>)

##### What happened in Genesis?

The relationship of love between God and man, and between people, was destroyed by sin.

Satan, in fact, in his first act made man and woman question God's love for them.

##### Genesis 1:4–5

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Here we see Satan planting that seed: If God really loved you, he would have told you that this is okay. If he really loved you, he wouldn't have held you back from knowing good and evil. From this point on, people question God's love for them, and struggle in their relationships with each other.

As God prophesies in Genesis, Jesus (the “seed”) returns to crush the head of the serpent, even though it will cost him.

**And why does he return?**

## 2. Jesus Came to Restore Love

### John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

This is God’s sacrificial act to restore the original story. He wants to restore our identity as those who are loved by, and who love, God.

**Jesus goes on to later teach this:**

### Matthew 22:36–40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

When Jesus boils it all down, what does he come up with? Love God with everything. And love each other. This was the point from the beginning.

However, we know from Adam and Eve that Satan wants to confuse us about our identity. He wants to corrupt what love means. He wants to plant seeds of doubt in our hearts that God doesn’t really love us.

- How could God love you when you’ve messed up so many times?
- How could God love you when you are so filled with doubt?
- I don’t know if I believe the Bible, so how can I believe that he loves me?
- How could a loving God allow (fill in the blank)? Therefore, I don’t think he loves me.
- And so on.

## DISCUSS

This is the strategy of the enemy still. He wants to break your relationships with your loving God. He wants to destroy your relationship with God and others. He wants you to doubt, to question, to feel shame and guilt, and to feel separation from your God. That's his plan.

1. Do you ever struggle with feeling like God doesn't love you? Why?

2. How does the enemy, or culture, or others, try to break your relationship with God and convince you that God doesn't love you?

## APPLY

Here is Jesus' plan:

### **Romans 8:35–39**

**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Nothing can separate you from the love of God. That is the story from the very beginning. Not your sin. Not your failures. Not the enemy. God's love will pursue you no matter what.

What things separate us from God's love?

- Shame: Feeling like we are too dirty or too broken to be loved.
- Perfectionism: Feeling like we can't really feel loved unless we do everything just right (pray a lot, read the Bible, etc.).
- Doubt: While asking questions about our faith is very good, sometimes we can become paralyzed by doubt over whether God really loves us.
- Woundedness: If you have grown up in an environment where you never really felt unconditional love, you can have a hard time feeling like God loves you.
- Can you think of more?

The big question is this: Will you run away and hide like Adam and Eve? Will you turn your back? Or will you receive God's love?

Will you build your identity on the truth that you are loved by God, no matter what? Or will you build your identity on trying to please others? Trying to get ahead? Trying to be cool? Trying to be accepted? Trying to be fit into culture? Trying to get lots of followers?

*For the leader: Share a story of a time when you questioned God's love for you, and he brought you back.*

So, back to the beginning: Who are you?

Maybe we can learn to say: I am loved, no matter what.

A final verse with a prayer for you:

**Ephesians 3:17–19**

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a hard time feeling God's love in your life? Why or why not?
2. Do you think it's true that nothing can separate us from God's love?
3. Does God still love people when they turn their back on him?
4. Why do you think God gave Adam and Eve the choice to turn their backs on him?
5. When you think of the question, "who am I?" does the answer "I am loved by God" come to mind? Do you think that should be an important part of your identity or not?



## HOLY SPIRIT/ MINISTRY TIME

Depending on your setting, do a ministry time or break into prayer partners and spend some time praying through areas of people's lives where they don't feel loved by God. Pray about shame or guilt or doubt that may be blocking their relationship.

# I AM A CHILD OF GOD

## BIG IDEA

### I BELONG.

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

Parents love their kids because of who they are, not what they do. Take a moment before you work on this and sit with the question: Do I think that God loves me for what I do? Visit some of those thoughts and take them to God. Ask him to help you reposition your beliefs around the truth that he loves you for who you are: a child of God.

## STARTER

Write down a top 10 list on a whiteboard or sheet of paper. Name the top 10 things you can do in your house that you wouldn't do in a friend's house.

## DISCUSS

What kinds of things do people do to feel like they belong? What do people do to feel like they're part of the group or to feel accepted? Have you ever done anything stupid or regrettable to try and fit in?

## TEACHING

Have you ever felt out of place?

*For the leader: Tell a story of a time when you felt out of place.*

At some point we all feel out of place with God and with church. It just happens. Maybe it is because people are judging us. Maybe we are going through something and it doesn't feel like people understand. Maybe we have let ourselves down and we have a hard time fighting through shame to connect with God.



Let me ask you to consider some questions (similar to the ones we discussed):

- Do you ever feel like you have to earn God's love?
- Do you ever feel like God grades you on your performance?
- Do you ever feel like you aren't quite "good enough" and maybe on the outside?
- Do you look at others and feel like they are "better" Christians?
- Do you ever feel like you don't belong at church, or in faith?

What does the Bible say about this?

**Romans 8:14–17**

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 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, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

This verse tells us several important truths about who we are:

- We are God's children.
- We are adopted into his family.
- We are made co-heirs with Christ.

Can you see how powerful this truth is? It addresses all those questions we have about who we are, and what our "standing" is before God and others.

- This verse tells us that we don't have to keep trying to "fit in."
- It also tells us that we have a calling—to do God's work with Jesus.
- It's crazy to think that as sinners who have broken God's heart, we can find our place in his family because of Jesus.
- This reminds me of the story of the Prodigal Son. Even though we have often wandered, God brings us into his family.

Another verse that shows God's love for us is:

**1 John 3:3:**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!



## DISCUSS

So what? Why does it matter that you are a child of God? Why does it matter that you are adopted into his family?

## APPLY

Let's talk about three reasons why it matters that you are God's child and have been adopted into his family:

### 1. You know that you are chosen.

Have you ever been picked close to last for a team? How does that feel? This is not true with God. He has looked right at you, all of your good qualities and your faults, and chosen you.

- You are not an accident. God wants you in his family and on his team.
- You are not just "one of the herd." You aren't loved just because he loves everyone. You are specifically loved. He loves you, not just humanity.
- You are unique and special and chosen.

### 2. You know that you belong.

- You are in God's family. You belong!
- You have a loving heavenly father.
- You have a local and worldwide tribe. You are part of the family of God— first in your local church, then in the Vineyard, and then in the Church worldwide!

### 3. You know you have purpose. (You are part of something bigger than yourself.)

- You know that you have a mission. You share the mission of Jesus. You are a co-heir with Christ.
- Why am I here? This is part of the answer.
- God created you on purpose for a purpose!

In the discussion of our identity and who we are, this understanding of being a child of God is monumentally important. We spend so much time trying to earn our way into belonging with people, but God offers us belonging for free.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. When you think of God, do you think of him as a loving Father? Is that hard for you? Why or why not?
2. Do you feel like you have a purpose in life? Do you feel like God created you with a purpose in mind?
3. Do you like the idea of being part of the church worldwide? Are there things about the church that bother you? Is it hard to be considered “part of the church?”
4. Have you ever struggled with rejection or not fitting in? How does knowing that God accepts you and loves you make you feel?

## HOLY SPIRIT/ MINISTRY TIME

Depending on your context, offer prayer ministry either up front, or in small groups. Spend time praying for people who feel excluded or like they don't belong. Pray for people who struggle with rejection. Pray for people who feel left out or struggle with self-hatred. This could really be a powerful ministry time, bringing healing to hurting hearts.

# I AM A NEW CREATION

## BIG IDEA

**YOU ARE NOT DEFINED BY YOUR MISTAKES.**

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

Depending on what you are going through in your life right now, this lesson could hit really close to home. The truth is, repetitive sin, shame, guilt, and condemnation don't magically go away when we get older. Today if you are struggling with any of these, reach out to a mentor. Remember, the enemy's plan is always isolation.

## STARTER

We love to define people by their best and worst actions.

Use a whiteboard or a piece of paper to make a list together:

- Who are some of the most infamous people in history known for doing bad things?
- Who are some of the most famous people in history known for doing good things?

## LESSON

### Point 1: Sin, the Double Edged Sword

*For the leader: Share about how sin was a struggle when you were growing up.*

When you try to pray or have a quiet time, are you ever bombarded with thoughts of how you have failed God? Do you ever have thoughts like these?

- "How can you claim to be a Christian? You just keep sinning."
- "You can't really expect God to answer your prayers, can you? You are so dirty from your sin."
- "You are a fraud. You say you believe this stuff, but honestly you just want to do what you want to do it."

Sin has this double edged attack:

- The enemy—and often our own desires—tempt us to sin.
- When we give in to that temptation, the enemy beats us up for listening to it and sinning. Shame and guilt are the double punch that come after sin.

Frequently, these are the results:

1. Some of us will struggle with feeling terrible about ourselves. We slide into self-condemnation and self-hatred. This can result in even more destructive behaviors like self-harm or escapism.
2. Some of us will just give up. We can't deal with the shame and guilt, so we just decide we won't care. Or the repetitive nature of our sin numb our conscience and we just don't feel the conviction of God anymore.

Obviously neither of those are healthy or helpful in overcoming sin.

The truth is that we are not defined by our worst moments.

- The enemy loves to remind us of all the times we've made mistakes.
- He loves to accuse us. (In Revelation 12:10 he is said to accuse us day and night!). He also loves to make us think we are nothing more than our sin.
- But this is simply not true. None of us is defined by our worst moments because of the grace and forgiveness of God.

## DISCUSS

Do you think it was fair that the criminal next to Jesus was given salvation? To our knowledge he didn't have any chance to "make things right." He just had the forgiveness of Jesus. What do you think about this? What about the people we listed in the first discussion? Would it bother you if any of them ended up in heaven?

*For the leader: This question might lead into a great discussion on works versus grace. We tend to think that good works=heaven, and bad works=hell. But the gospel is much different, and grace can really rub us the wrong way. It reminds me of what Jesus said in his parable of the workers of the Vineyard (Matthew 20:15): "Are you envious because I am generous?" We think it's "unfair" that "bad" people can be forgiven, but we fail to realize that we are "bad" people. ALL have sinned*

## LESSON

*(Romans 3:23), but we tend to think (if we are honest) that we are basically “good people” so that’s why we should go to heaven. Jesus tells a different story. This might be a good place to just bring up the point that we all need grace. And to think about this verse: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

### Point 2 : Grace not Works

Something that is hard for us to understand is grace. Grace is good things from God that we can't earn, he just gives them to us as a gift.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:17–19

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

This is the big point today. You are a new creation, which means you are not defined by your mistakes.

We are talking about identity. So often our world wants to define us by what we do wrong. You are labeled. You are judged. You are looked down upon. And you know that most of the time when someone is judging you, they are doing something similar in their life right?

But even worse than others judging us is how we judge ourselves. We are so hard on ourselves. We tend to get stuck in endless loops of condemning ourselves like we talked about in Point 1.

So this is our identity in Christ: **I am a new creation.**

- The old has gone, the new has come. Imagine having a bunch of dirty, smelly clothes on. How great does it feel to take them off, shower, and get clean clothes on? That is what Jesus does for us with our past and our sins.

- You are not defined by your past sins. You are forgiven.
- You do not have to be trapped by shame and guilt. You can be free.
- You do not have to believe the lies about being a bad person. You can hear the truth of Jesus about you.

This is not something you earn. It is a beautiful gift of God to you.

- All that is required is that we turn to God.
- The Bible talks about repentance and forgiveness. Repentance is the act of turning from our sin, and forgiveness is what we receive from God to cleanse us of the stain of sin on our conscience. These are powerful acts that happen in prayer with Jesus.

Here are a few examples of arguments that may be rising up in your heart:

- You may be thinking, "You don't know what I've done."
- Or, you may be wondering, "What about repetitive sin?" "What if I keep sinning, and then repenting, and it never changes?"

**The answer to those arguments is that God is a God of second chances.**

- Let's end with this major idea that I hope you remember forever: God is a God of second (and third, and fourth, and so on) chances.
- God never gives up on you.
- God's forgiveness never runs out.
- Nothing can separate you from God's love. Remember week 1?
- You are a New Creation:
  - In Jesus your past does not define you.
  - Your sin is forgiven and your wounds can be healed.
  - You have a future and a plan in him.
  - You have new life in him.

Here are some more verses on God's forgiveness that may help you:

**1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Psalm 103:12**

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

**Romans 10:13**

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

## APPLY

There are a few practical ways to apply this:

1. Don't agree with the accuser. When you hear the accusing words of the enemy (or yourself) in your head and heart, choose to name them and get rid of them. Don't agree with them. Fight back against condemnation, shame, and guilt.
2. Make it a practice to ask for, and receive, forgiveness from God. There is power in praying that prayer and then receiving his forgiveness.
3. Agree with the truth. You are a new creation. You are forgiven. You are cleansed. Sometimes it helps to read verses about this, or just say these to yourself when you are battling shame.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had a hard time believing that God forgives you?
2. Have you ever battled condemnation or shame? If you feel comfortable sharing in your group, can you share about it?
3. Why is it hard to forgive ourselves, even when we know that God forgives us?
4. Do you believe that God will always give you a second chance, or do you think at some point, if you keep sinning, his grace will run out?

## HOLY SPIRIT/ MINISTRY TIME

Depending on your context, this may be a great opportunity to offer prayer ministry for breaking shame, condemnation, and guilt. You could also offer safe opportunities for people who need to share with a trusted leader about a sin issue they are trapped in.

# I AM CALLED

## BIG IDEA

### I WAS CREATED ON PURPOSE, FOR A PURPOSE.

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

It can be easy to let the grind of life chew you up and spit you out. As adults, we can forget about having purpose. Take a moment today and think about what you are doing that is connecting you to God's purpose and plan in your life.

## STARTER

Discuss these questions:

- What is the meaning of life?
- Does your life matter?
- What give life (or your life) meaning and purpose?

## LESSON

There are a few important big questions to think about for our lives:

#### 1. Are we physical or spiritual beings?

Are we just biology? Just an evolution of cells with no soul?

- Atheism would tell us that we are just matter. We are just a higher order of animals, and when we die, that's it. Game over. Nothing we do or say will last. Think about that. Even if I write books that last 2000 years, they don't matter, because in another billion years it will all be gone. Nothing lasts. So what matters? How do we find meaning if we are just biology?

Are we eternal?

- Do we have a soul/spirit that is made of something more than just biology? Are we eternal beings? If this is true, then when we do and say something, it actually lasts. When we impact someone else's life, we are impacting the life of an eternal being. We are touching the life of someone God has vested unique value in, not just another animal or collection of cells.

2. Does our individual life matter?

What gives our life meaning? Is meaning defined by what makes us happy? How do we define meaning? Nothing we do on earth will really matter if there is no eternity. If there is no eternity, why do anything? Why be good? What even is good? How do you define good if there is no higher power to give it definition? Why is it bad to take advantage of others (for instance) if I get ahead and it makes me happy?

3. Does God have a plan for your life?

Is there a specific plan that God has for your life that you can find and/or miss? Do you think his plan is flexible? Do you think you are here for a reason?

**Ephesians 2:10**

For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.

This verse shows us that

We were created ON purpose: We are his masterpiece.

We were created FOR a purpose: to do the works he has prepared for us.

This is so important to our identity. It changes everything to know that you have a purpose—and that purpose comes from God.

Part of our journey of faith, then, is discovering our purpose in God as it unfolds through our life.

**Romans 12:1–2**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 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.**

*For the leader: Tell a story about when you discovered some of God's plans for your life.*

## DISCUSS

God's plan for your life isn't a static one-path plan. It is more like:

- a path he leads you on,
- combined with the passions he puts in your heart, and
- the natural and spiritual gifts he has given you.

God's plan can be thought of both as

- Vocation (what we do for a job or to make money)
- Ministry (what we are all called to do in the body of Christ)
- Passion (what we care about and MUST pursue, even if it doesn't fit into the above two)

Given what we've just talked about, what do you think you have learned about God's plans for your life? It may help to answer these questions:

- What gifts do you think God has given you (both natural and spiritual)?
- What are you passionate about? What makes you angry when you see it, or excited? What do you see others doing that you really want to do?

## APPLY

The danger in thinking about God's plan for your life is that you can end up sitting around and waiting for it to happen, rather than doing anything of meaning now. The secret to living a life following God's plan, is to do it in the "now." Each day, God is leading you. God is calling you. Every day we can choose to follow him. We ask him, and listen, and follow. "God what are you calling me into now?" This type of life then leads to "God what are you calling me into for my future?"

Give the students cards, and some time to write down answers to these questions:

- What gifts (both spiritual and natural) do I have?
- What am I passionate about? What do I love to do, or what do I see in society that I wish I could change?
- What do I see others doing that makes me feel like I would like to do something similar (both in ministry and in vocation)?
- Do I have a sense of what God is calling me into in the future (both in ministry and in vocation)?
- Is there anything in my life right now that I feel God is calling me to try, start, and get into?

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Share with each other your answers to the Apply section.

## HOLY SPIRIT/ MINISTRY TIME

Spend some time either in small groups or in pairs, and pray for each other about what is written on your cards.

# WELCOME TO VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM

Hello friends. What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. The Vineyard movement is at a crucial place, and we believe that the work we do with students will have much influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10-20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

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## Each lesson includes:

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- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to reveal and experience the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions each week.
- A devotional for the leader to help them grow in this area.
- Planned activities to help students hear God for themselves.

## Why This Topic?

For anyone who has ever been a teenager, you know that discovering "who you are" is a huge part of that time of life. What do I care about? What defines "me?" Who are my friends? How do I want to live my life in relationship to all that's going on around me?

To that end, we have endeavored to create a starting point for this discussion in your youth group. This certainly doesn't come close to being exhaustive. But we think it lays a foundation of the most important part of our identity: who God says we are.

## About the Author

*Christian Dunn*

Christian and his wife Mandy live with their four amazing kids in Pennsylvania. He has worked in youth ministry for 20 years and has had the pleasure of serving as the leader of East Region Youth Task Force of the Vineyard for 10 of those years. He is currently serving as the National Youth Director for VUSA, and recently planted CityLight Vineyard Church in Newark, DE. He is the author of "Finding the One: How Dating Prepares You For Marriage" and "More Than Spectators: Empowering Teens for Ministry." He is excited about imparting to young people a passion for following Jesus, discovering their gifts, and pursuing their ministry callings.