IDENTITY



propel Girl



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<u>Propel Women</u> is a Christian ministry that comes alongside women as they develop their leadership potential, helping them to go further and take on new challenges. Matthew 9:37 tells us that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. No matter where a woman has influence—in an office, in her community, at home with her family, or in ministry—Propel is driven by a calling to equip and mobilize women to become effective co-laborers with Christ in that harvest and make a difference within their unique spheres of influence. Join the movement at @propelwomen.

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OUTLINE



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Part 4

What Do I Do With My Life?

Part 5

But What Happens If I Mess Up?



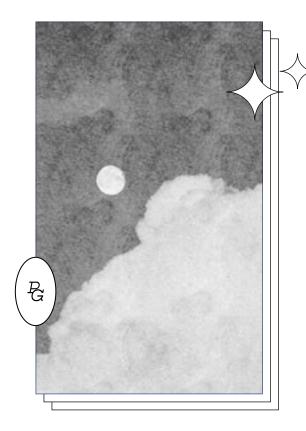
Part 1 Who Do you Think you Are ?

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith



Who are you? If you had just a few seconds to answer, what would you say? Go ahead, try it. You might share your name, your age, and possibly where you're from. That's a start, but are these the most important things about you? Do those details explain who you are as a person? To know you better, someone might ask you to share what you believe in. What you value. How you see yourself. And—a big one—what dreams do you have for your life?

The answers to these questions, plus a lot more, make up your identity. It's the combination of all the "ingredients" that make you, you.



Your identity includes your personality, interests, talents, and experiences that have shaped you. This devotional will help you to get to know the real you—the you that God created you to be, a person filled with purpose and potential!

How you see yourself influences everything in your life, like how you choose your friends, your hobbies, and your work. Most importantly, your identity affects how you think and interact with the world around you.

We tend to base our identities on our experiences in life, like how people have treated us or the values we've adopted from books, movies, or social media. Unfortunately, the misinformation we receive and the hurts we experience can make us confused about our identity.

5

For instance, some of your friends may not want to hang out anymore, and so you spend a lot of time alone online. As you watch everyone else having tons of fun with friends, it's easy to label yourself as unlikeable and unwanted. However, these labels and this self-assigned identity is not based on truth.

We can only find our true identity by discovering what God says about us and basing our identity on that. When we know the truth about who God says we are, we begin to look at all the things going on in our life from a new perspective. We don't need to wait to hear what people say about us or how they treat us to know our value and potential. Only God has that much power!

So instead of automatically assuming that your friends aren't spending time with you because you're unlikeable, for example, you will know you are loved and chosen no matter what. Then you can more easily recognize the many other potential reasons why friends can't hang out, reasons that have nothing to do with you—they could have a new job, extra schoolwork, or more responsibilities at home.

You might be thinking, what happens if God's Word says all these great things about me but—to be totally honest—I don't really feel that way about myself? Then welcome! You're in the right place! Whether you believe how special and valuable you are all of the time, some of the time, or hardly ever, there is something more God wants to show you. Ask him to do so.

The best way to begin to embrace your true identity today is by getting to know God more and discovering what he has to say about you. He says absolutely amazing things about who you are in his Word. He's put this information in the Bible for you to find. He wants you to know that "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for" (Ephesians 1:11 MSG).

Do you believe God loves you? Tell him in writing. Be honest, de	on't
jot down what you believe is the "right" answer. God always wo	ants
you to tell him what you're really thinking.	

doing everything right? Explain.
What is something you can do today to trust God more?

#LifeHack

When we speak God's Word, we plant it in our hearts. Get your shovel, let's get digging!

Read the Scripture below out loud several times. Read it slowly by emphasizing a different key word each time. Start by speaking the first word louder and with greater emotion. Read it through again, but emphasize the second word, then the third, and so forth (in this case, you can skip the smaller words like "the" and "to.")

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Ephesians 1:4 NIV

For example, read the capitalized word below with greater emphasis:

FOR he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

For HE chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

For he CHOSE us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.



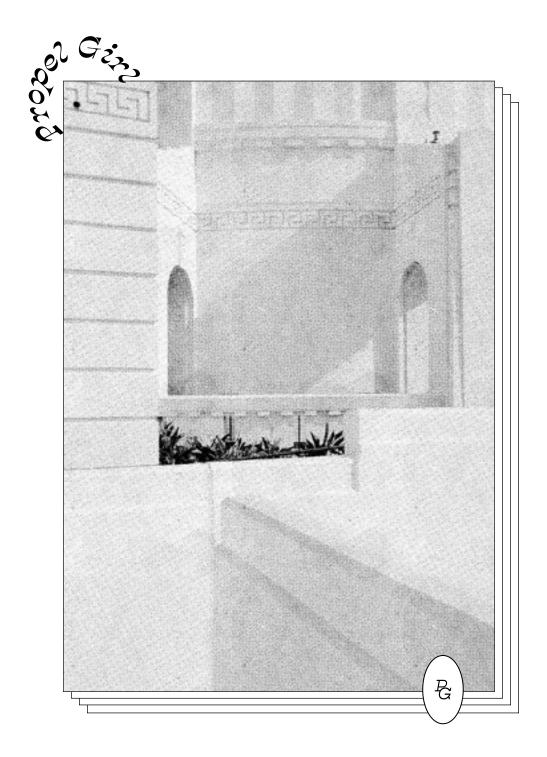
You got this. Keep going!

Using the "My God Identity" sheet on **page 34**, write out this Scripture in your own words. Next to your version include "Ephesians 1:4" so you remember where it came from.

We will keep adding to the sheet to create your personalized Scripture list. Reading, reciting and praying with your list daily will help you to understand and believe your true identity.

Prayer

Thank you God for choosing me and loving me. Thank you for giving me your Word that spells out my true identity. I pray that you will help me to know and believe all that you say about me, and give me the strength not to believe what the world wants me to believe about myself. I want to know you and love you more. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.





"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."



Psalm 139:13-14 NIV

Imagine receiving a beautifully wrapped box on Christmas morning. With joy you carefully examine the shiny, colorful wrapping paper and lightly touch the perfect bow on top. The outside is so special, yet you know what's inside will be even better!

"What is it?" you wonder. There's only one way to find out. You unwrap the present and take a look inside the box.

Who you were made to be is a very special gift from God to you. He made you with beautiful wrapping on the outside, but most valuable is what's on the inside—your true identity. Not the identity you get from the world, but your identity found in Jesus. If we only listen to what the world says about us, we can be fooled into focusing on the outer wrapping, never bothering to discover the great gift underneath!

All the many amazing sides of your identity are described in great detail in the Bible. Where?, you may ask.
Good question! It's not an actual list.
Our identity is very important to God so he has filled the Bible with stories, songs, and prayers that describe who we are. He loves you and wants you to take the time to read his Word yourself to uncover the truth because reading God's Word has the power to change us from the inside out.



IDENTITY

As we read the Bible, God's truth is planted in our hearts.

We will spend our lives learning more and more about who he says we are. By some counts, there are more than one hundred Bible verses about your identity. Let's start with just a few.

God says you are:

- Totally accepted! "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,.."
 -1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)
- Super valuable! You are "... God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness and into his wonderful light." -1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)
- **His own child!** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God –John 1:12 (ESV)
- Jesus' friend! No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his
 master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father
 I have made known to you. -John 15:15 (ESV)
- Saved completely by grace! For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, -Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)
- Made in the image of God! So God created mankind in his own image, in the image
 of God he created them; male and female he created them. -Genesis 1:27 (NIV)
- Living with Christ in You! ...Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you...? -2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)
- **Blessed!** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. -Ephesians 1:3 (NIV)
- Courageous! For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and selfcontrol. -2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

- A brand new creation! Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

 The old has gone, the new is here! -2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)
- Free! You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free... -Galatians 5:13 (NIV)
- Fully loved, now and forever! ...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.

 Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIV)

There are times when we can quickly read a fact and move on. For example, water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, or 100 degrees Celsius. That's true; you don't have to revisit that fact to know it. But God's Word has more than just facts for your brain's database.

The Bible says, "...pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body (Proverbs 4:20–22 NIV). God wants us to take our time reading the words he uses to describe us, thinking about them, re-reading them, and memorizing them so they penetrate our heart. This is how we come to know and believe who God says we are.

Sometimes we identify ourselves by our roles or the things we do. We can be a student, daughter, or friend. If we play soccer, we are athletes; or if we play guitar, we are musicians. These are great, but they are the "wrapping" part of our gift.

List five roles or titles you have.

1.	
2	
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3.	
1	
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5.	

IDENTITY

Let's open the box and look inside. Review the true things God says about you in the Scriptures listed above. Which of these are the most interesting or surprising to you? Underline one (or more!).



We can align our thinking with God's truth by reciting and memorizing Bible verses. Reread the list of things God says about you, and this time personalize it. Read each bullet point, but start each with the phrase "I am" (e.g., I am fully loved now and forever).

Then pick one of the verses, one that you especially like, to memorize. You can write it below and keep it with you to look at throughout the day.







Go Deeper

Read the verse below and rewrite it in your own words on your "My God Identity" sheet that you have started.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 NIV

What does this verse say about your identity?



Dear God, thank you for making me who I am, your deeply loved and chosen daughter. Help me to believe all the wonderful things you say about me in your Word. I invite the Holy Spirit to keep reminding me about what you say. I will keep your Word in my heart. I love you and trust you. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Part 3

May am 1 Here?

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

John 15:16 NIV

God has given you your identity as a gift. But he doesn't give us blessings like this just for our own benefit. As part of your identity, you have been blessed with unique talents, interests, skills, experiences, and character traits that are meant to serve God and serve the world. God has blessed us so we can bless others (see Genesis 12:2).

The Book of Matthew says that "[Y]ou are the light of the world" and your light should not be hidden because the world needs to see it. You are to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16 NIV).

You may have heard before that God made us for a purpose. That's totally true. The Bible tells us that "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me" (Psalm 138:8 ESV). By "purpose" we're talking about how we use our gifts to do the things God wants us to do during our life. It's how we use our time here on earth!

As Christians, we are all meant to use our time to be in a close relationship with God as part of his family and to invite others to have a relationship with him too. We are called to be his disciples, which means a lifelong commitment to knowing him, learning from him, doing as he did, and inviting others to join us in following Jesus. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians



Our purpose in life can be our paid job, but it can also be expressed through volunteer work, hobbies, or any other actions taken to serve others. It's how we share our time, special talents, and life experiences that God has given us to help others and bring glory to him.

God has been preparing you and shaping you for your own unique purpose. So what is your purpose in life? It will be a combination of something that interests you—usually a desire God puts in your heart—plus something you do well and that serves others. For example, say you love animals and want to help them in some way. You've spent a lot of time around dogs and you are very good with them, so your purpose may be to volunteer at a shelter to help walk, brush, and play with the puppies.

Some people know their purpose early on, but don't worry if you don't. It's quite common for people to feel unsure about where they are called and how they can best serve. (More on that to come.) Today, let's ask God in prayer to use us to do his good works, and to reveal to us the desires and talents he gives us to serve well.

As you learn new skills, develop new interests, and have more experiences, where you are led to serve others and bring glory to God may change over time. God will equip you with exactly what you need for the job! Your unique purpose is worth getting excited about!

What are some of your interests? Just list whatever comes to mind.

Don't try to be perfect. Examples might be reading spy novels, Bi study, gymnastics, street fashion, bullet journaling, baking, hikir K-pop, Ballet Folklorico dancing—anything!	

What is something you do well? Again, just write what comes to mind. The idea is to get creative and start to think about the possibilities.



Look at the list of interests that you just wrote. If you are interested in baking, chances are that you're a pretty good baker or could be with a little practice.

Circle one thing from your "interest" list or your "what you do well" list. How could this thing serve others or serve God? (If you're having trouble figuring it out, think about how doing anything with excellence and in God's name brings him honor and glory—and write about how you can do that in your daily life.)



IDENTITY



We may not be able to see right away how God can use our talents, interests, and experiences to connect us to our purpose. But when we do our work with excellence, we can depend on him to make opportunities. You may think your love of Bible study doesn't serve anyone but you. But if you study with your whole heart, then you are honoring God with your excellence. If you ask him to use your Bible study skills, you may find that he will provide opportunities to share your Bible wisdom with others to bring them closer to God. You may even write a Bible study yourself! There are so many excellent ways of serving.

Write a prayer to God asking him to show you ways that you can use your interests and talents right now to serve others.

Go Deeper



Read the verse below and rewrite it on your "My God Identity" sheet using your own words. Don't forget to include a reference (John 1:12).

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

John 1:12 ESV

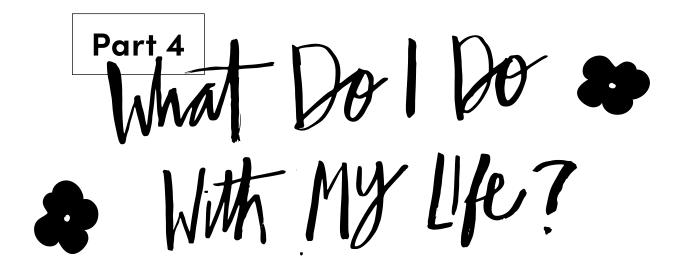
What does this verse say about your identity?



Dear Lord, I love how you've made me. Show me how I can use all that I am and all that you have given me to do the good works you have planned for me. I want to serve well and bring glory to your name. Please help me to see how you've equipped me to serve, and open my eyes to all the opportunities you provide. I ask in the name of Jesus, Amen.



IDENTITY



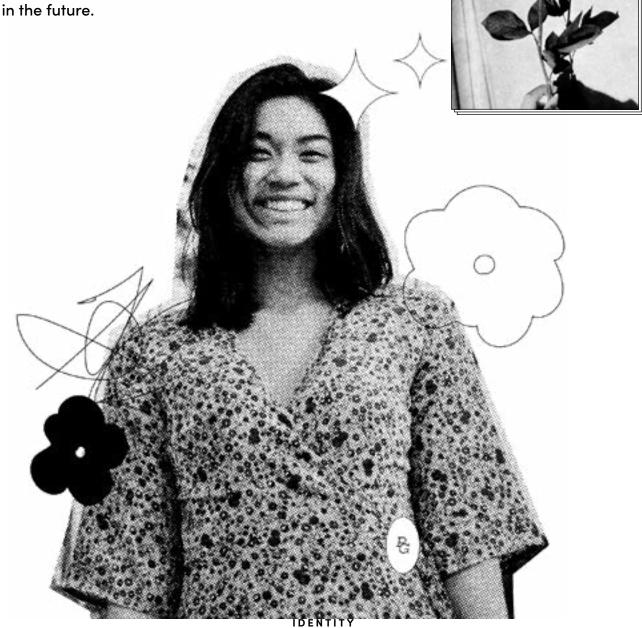
In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Proverbs 16:9 NIV

How many times have you been asked, What do you want to do with your life? It's an important question. When you hear it you may think of a future profession or job. The point is that we most often answer this question in terms of our future, like what we will do after we finish school or get more experience. But you know what? Your life doesn't just happen in the future, you're alive right now! Why wait until later to do something that matters with your life?

God made you just the way you are to equip you for the purpose he has for you. That's true whether you're eight or 80. His plan is for you to learn who you are in him and discover your talents and interests so that you can serve the world. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10 NIV). This is your identity and what God has prepared for you to do with your life, both today and

So, how do I choose what to do? Your purpose is between you and God, and you should continually pray for his guidance. But we can also find some clues in the Bible. Scripture tells us, "... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV).



God wants us to choose to do the work that we can do with excellence and with joy. That means doing what we do well, but also stretching ourselves to always put in our best effort. We cannot bring glory to God or show love for others by doing work that is just okay.

But remember: our goal is to show excellence, not try to be perfect. Only God is perfect! We reflect excellence when we do our best with the skills and talents that God has given us.

There are probably a lot of things you can do with excellence. But when narrowing down your options and making the best possible choice, it might help to ask yourself which of your serving opportunities you are most passionate about and which ones serve others the most. You can certainly test out different things, too. How else will you know if you have talent or are passionate about something unless you try it? If you feel God is prompting you to try something new, by all means, go!

Here's another thing: should we always serve every time we're asked? No, we are not meant to do everything. Saying yes all the time can wear us out and even take the joy out of serving, which makes us far less effective. Plus, if we try to do too many things, we won't have the time to develop our skills and talents enough to do any single thing very well!

When thinking about a purpose for your life, some practical steps to take are to:

- Pray. Prayer should come before every important decision we make. If you'd like to serve, don't make the mistake of deciding first, and then later asking God to make your plans work. Whatever you do, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3 NIV)
- Choose. If we don't act because we can't decide, then we are actually choosing not to serve. Have you ever heard the expression God can't drive a parked car? If you have an interest, and have prayed about it, give it a try!
- **Serve with excellence.** Whatever we choose, if we serve with our whole heart and do our best, we succeed in glorifying his name.

•	Have patience. We will more fully enjoy and be more passionate about doing work
	that we do well. Mastering a skill takes time and usually a lot of practice. Don't quit
	too soon.

•	Repeat as needed. If you've prayed and tried your best, but you find that what you've
	chosen isn't how you can best serve anymore, that's okay. Keep praying and trying
	new things!

Do you remember when you were younger what you dreamed about being when you grew up? List some here.
Our dreams change, but they can be a clue to our interests and
talents. Look through the list you just made, underline two, and explain why they interested you.

Are there skills related to these interests you can explore? For example, you wanted to be an astronaut when you were little. You don't anymore, but what interested you was space, or traveling to the unknown. Maybe you can teach science or astronomy, or learn more about planets and stars. Give it a try and see if you come up with at least three ideas.



We can train our brain to be on the lookout for our purpose! We do this by praying for God's guidance, and then getting creative. Try brainstorming below. You should let your mind be free to come up with all sorts of ideas without worrying whether the ideas are possible. Take 10 minutes and just write whatever comes to mind. The more often you brainstorm, the better you'll get. And after a while, your brain will start to come up with ideas without even really trying.







Read the verse below and rewrite it on your "My God Identity" sheet using your own words.

...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.

Ephesians 3:17-19 NIV

What does this verse say about your identity?



Thank you, God, for loving me and choosing me to carry out the plans you have for me. You created me and know me better than I know myself! Please show me where I can use all the talents you have given me to serve others with excellence. Give me the courage to do my best and to try new things, if you call me in that direction. I pray these things in the mighty name of Jesus! Amen.



But because of his great love for us,
God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive
with Christ even when we were dead in
transgressions—it is by grace you have been
saved.

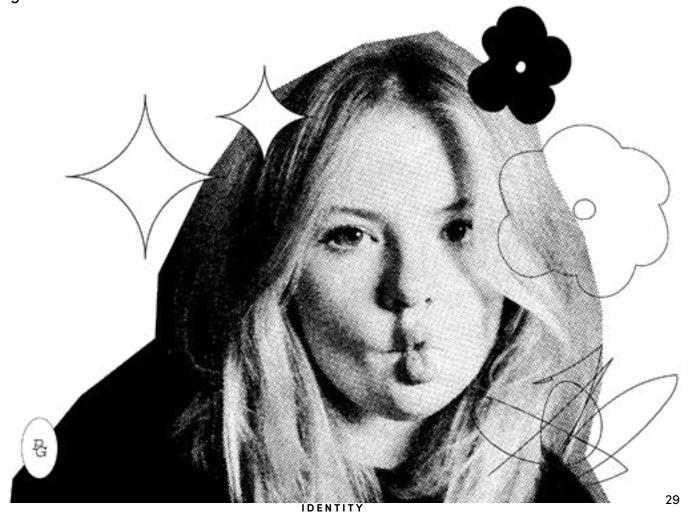
Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV

Your arms are outstretched in front of you as you smile ear to ear. You're watching an adorable toddler grip the edge of a chair, teetering on tiny feet and giggling excitedly. She's looking right at you with those happy baby eyes. Then, awkwardly, with a quick jerk she plops her baby leg toward you to take her very first wobbly step! You excitedly clap your hands. And then, whoops, down she goes! "Ooh, too bad," you say, "You failed. I guess you won't ever learn to walk."

You would never say this, right? You wouldn't even consider thinking that a toddler is a failure if it takes time for her to learn to walk. After all, falling down is part of learning! Yet, we are often this hard—or worse—on ourselves.

Have you ever gotten mad at yourself when you messed up? Making a mistake is never fun, but when we judge our actions or ourselves too harshly, we make it much harder to keep going or to try new things in the future. In fact, we might give up altogether and miss out on something that could have been great!





We must be kind and patient with ourselves as we learn new things and figure out how we can serve. We are not always going to be good at something right away. Sometimes we tell ourselves that we've failed at something new, when really we just quit too soon. Proverbs 24:16 (NIV) tells us that "for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again."

Messing up is part of life and it's actually a good thing that we fall sometimes. How can it be good? God uses our mistakes to teach us. We may not like it, but there are certain lessons we can only learn through failure. If you don't make some mistakes, then you're not taking the kind of risks that will make you grow.

If we take some missteps while we figure out our unique purpose, so what? It happens to everybody. We serve a big God who loves us and wants only the best for us. He is with us and for us. If you try serving somewhere, and you've done your best but it doesn't work out, you can trust in God to correct your course. He'll show you something else, as long as you don't give up. Your job is to always do your best and leave the outcome to him.

Now, sometimes we mess up because of sin. That's something different. We still are not to condemn ourselves. The truth in God's Word promises us that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1 NIV). But we do need to get on the right track right away by confessing our sin to God in prayer and asking for his forgiveness. Remember, what God says about us is our true identity—and he says that we are forgiven. "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12 ESV). How awesome is that?

If you take some wrong turns in discovering your purpose, don't worry. You can always bring glory to God and serve others in small ways every day. He calls you to treat others the same way as he treats you—with acceptance, love, and kindness. This is who God made you to be, this is your identity as his loved and chosen daughter who brings glory to his name, and this is what you are called to do.

Your purpose might change or develop over the years, but your identity in God is the one thing that remains the same—and you don't need to wait to discover it!



would you say? Go ahead, try it.
How do you deal with messing up or feeling like you've failed?
What can you tell yourself if you mess up or are tempted to give up?

IDENTITY

	#LifeHack
g	callure is something that happens, it's not who we are. Some of our reatest growth in life will come from lessons learned by messing up. callure is not fatal!
lil he so fr	an you think of a time you messed up but learned something from it? Taybe you will do something different in the future. It could be something as getting a bad grade on a test, so next time you studied an extra all hour. Maybe you were rude to a friend and felt bad about saying smething you regret. Did you confess it to God and apologize to your iend? From experience, you learned both to avoid regret by watching our words, and also you learned how to make things right after messing to.
	Write down a time you made a mistake, and what you learned from it.



Read the verse below and rewrite it in your own words on your "My God Identity" sheet.

...Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you...?

2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV

What does this verse say about your identity?

You may want to decorate your sheet: draw pictures, use stickers, or add washi tape! Keep this sheet with you, on your desk, in your Bible, or on your night stand. As time goes on, add even more Scripture about your identity. You can copy the words directly out of the Bible, or use your own words.

Look at your list frequently. Read what it says about you and memorize your favorites. Plant your God identity deep in your heart!

Prayer

Thank you, God, that I am your child. I am wanted, cherished, known, worthy, and loaded with purpose. I am so thankful that you have a purpose for me. Help me to live well by serving you and loving others. I'm privileged to be your daughter. It's in your name I pray, Amen.

My God Identity

What God Says About Me	Bible Verse



To get more faith-building resources for teens, please visit TENx10.