



Invitation to Identity

The emotions of a 5th grader can run the gamut. They're at the top of the stack at elementary schools, but there's also a good deal of fear about the middle school years just ahead. With all that uncertainty comes the moment when 5th graders begin to ask themselves, "Who am I, and where do I fit in?" This is a conversation that will continue to be played in their minds well into their teen years. We want to help you set them up to know fully WHO THEY ARE as they face this ongoing question.

Kickstarter 1: Made with Purpose

Read together **Psalm 139:13-18:**

You created the deepest parts of my being.

You put me together inside my mother's body.

How you made me is amazing and wonderful.

I praise you for that.

What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.

None of my bones was hidden from you when you made me inside my mother's

body.

That place was as dark as the deepest parts of the earth.

When you were putting me together there, your eyes saw my body even before it was formed.

You planned how many days I would live. You wrote down the number of them in your book before I had lived through even one of them.

God, your thoughts about me are priceless.

No one can possibly add them all up. If I could count them, they would be more than the grains of sand.

If I were to fall asleep counting and then wake up, you would still be there with me.

These are God's thoughts about you. Use the boy/girl graphic and write within it how you would describe yourself, what you are good at, what you like doing, what kind of person you are.

Pray with your child that he/she would see himself/herself as God sees him/her.

Give your 5th grader space to do this alone. Depending on the privacy level of your child, he/she may not want you



to see it, may not want you to look at it in front of them, may share openly, etc. You can ask them to leave it on their dresser, and you can look at it during a time that he/she isn't around. They could lay it on the kitchen counter, or they may want to just put it in a safe place. It'd be great for you to know what it contains, but it's more important that the child is honest and does it.

Kickstarter 2: God's Bigger Plan

Ask your child, what are some things you'd love to be able to do in life, what are your big dreams? Lead your child to write some of these on the **MY FUTURE** page. If they're having trouble thinking of some things, share what some of your dreams were as a kid. It's OK if they did/didn't come true. This is a time for him/her to think big. In Kickstarter 1, the child did the activity alone, do this one together.

Once done read, **Jeremiah 29:11**:
"I know the plans I have for you," announces the Lord. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come."

Tell your child: God has big plans for you. Right now you may not know exactly what those plans are. What you can do as you wait to know God's plan for your life is follow Him and obey Him now. God has given you dreams and passions, and He knows which ones are the right ones to follow, so live for Him

today, and He'll guide your tomorrow.

Kickstarter 3-Be authentic

Ask your child: what do you think it means to be authentic?

Being authentic means not being fake or copying but being real, being YOU. Sometimes all we see is how we are different than others, but God designed us that way. Samuel was given the task of anointing the next king out of Jesse's family. Jesse brings his sons and lines them up in front of Samuel.

Read **1 Samuel 16:6-13**.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab. He thought, "This has to be the one the Lord wants me to anoint for him."

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. I do not look at the things people look at. Man looks at how someone appears on the outside. But I look at what is in the heart."

Then Jesse called for Abinadab. He had him walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord hasn't chosen him either." Then Jesse had Shammah walk by. But Samuel said, "The Lord hasn't chosen him either."

Jesse had seven of his sons walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said to him, "The Lord hasn't chosen any of them." So he asked Jesse, "Are these the only sons you have?"



"No," Jesse answered. "My youngest son is taking care of the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him. We won't sit down to eat until he arrives."

So Jesse sent for his son and had him brought in. His skin was tanned. He had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Get up and anoint him. He is the one."

So Samuel got the animal horn that was filled with olive oil. He anointed David in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came on David with power. Samuel went back to Ramah.

Look at David. He was definitely different. In fact, his Dad didn't even bother having him show up for this time between his sons and Samuel. God sees people very differently than we see ourselves. God chose David because David was different and God knew his heart.

Tell your child God has created them to be different. All those differences are intentional; God chose those qualities for you alone. Have your child take a good, honest look at himself/herself and write down all the ways he/she is unique/different on the "I am me" sheet. You can choose for them to do this alone or with you. Gauge your own child's needs.