

PARENT GUIDE

Lesson 5.4: Identity

JOURNEY

IDENTITY

► SCRIPTURE READING

- » Matthew 13:53–58; Mark 6:3;
Luke 2:40; John 7:1–9;
Acts 1:14; 12:17;
1 Corinthians 9:4–6
- » Luke 2:19, 41–52; John 2:5; 19:25–27;
Acts 1:14
- » Galatians 1; James 1
- » Jude

SUMMARY:

God created families as a gift to the human race. And yet because of sin, family relationships can get really complicated. Some families will serve Jesus together, modeling appropriate godly behavior and mutual servant leadership. Some won't. Even in families that trust Jesus, there will be brokenness, heartache and the need for repentance.

Jesus understood the complexities of family firsthand. He had imperfect parents, at least four half-brothers and multiple sisters. Even after growing up in the same house, Jesus' brothers didn't believe in Him until after His resurrection.

When our families get it wrong (and they will), we must remember Jesus is the ultimate model for this life, and He calls us to follow **Him**. He is the only one who can shape our identity and teach us how to glorify God in our daily lives. When we trust Him as Savior, we are welcomed with open arms into the family of God. From that sense of belonging, we can find the strength to ask God to help us love and serve our earthly families, even when they are especially difficult to love.

► MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS

- » Jude 24–25*
- » Hebrews 11:17–19
- » James 1:22–24

► IDENTITY INSIGHT

The first place I must learn to live for Jesus is at home. God can use my family as a means to train me in the ways of faith, godly behavior and servant leadership.

► IMPORTANT IDEAS:

FEAST OF TABERNACLES: one of three pilgrimage festivals in the Jewish year — this one for a celebration of firstfruits (Exodus 23:16) and the commemoration of the beginning of the wanderings of Israel (Leviticus 23:43)

FEAST OF PASSOVER: the festival remembering the 10th plague in Egypt and the beginning of the exodus (Exodus 12:3–28). Jesus celebrated this meal with His disciples and instituted the Lord's Table, or Communion (Matthew 26:18–19).

SERVANT LEADERSHIP: influencing people toward good goals by placing their interests above our own, mimicking Jesus' model (John 13:12–15)

APOSTLE: those who are "sent," originally referring to the Twelve, but also referring to those appointed by Christ; 2 Corinthians 11:13 refers to a larger group of *apostles of Christ* in a warning about *false apostles*.³