

FINDING YOUR IDENTITY IN JESUS

- DAY 1 Ephesians 1:1-14
- DAY 2 Ephesians 2:1-6
- DAY 3 2 Corinthians 5:6-21
- DAY 4 Galatians 2:16-21
- DAY 5 Romans 8:1-17
- DAY 6 Psalm 139
- DAY 7 Romans 6:1-14

YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S KINGDOM

God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms.

—Ephesians 2:6

INTRODUCTION

Everybody needs a place to belong, and being a member of God's kingdom gives you that place. It gives you a sense of identity, a sense of who you are. It also gives you confidence and strength. Knowing you are a member of God's kingdom gives you courage to face the challenges of life, because you know you're not alone. And it gives you a deep sense of purpose, because you know you are part of something big, wonderful, and very important. So it's important to remind yourself, every day, of your true identity as a Christian. You need to remember that you are a valuable, loved member of God's kingdom. That way, no matter where you go, you'll walk upright and carry your head high. And you'll always do what's honorable and right!

Today's devotion will help you remember who you are and where you belong. It's based on Ephesians 2:6, which says, "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms." The devotion is called "Your Place in God's Kingdom."

DEVOTION

In the garage, Troy watched his father use a belt sander on their kitchen table. Troy's three-year-old sister, Pauline, had scribbled on the table with a marker. His dad shut off the sander. "Want to give it a try?" he asked.

Troy said, "Sure!"

His father showed him how to hold the power tool. "Keep moving it around, sanding evenly," he said. "We have to remove all the black marks and old varnish before applying new varnish."

As Troy put on a dust mask, his dad patted the wood. "This old table means a lot to me. I always sat on one end, across from my dad. Like you do now. That was my spot, and no matter where I went, I knew it was always there waiting for me."

You have a special place with God and Jesus in the kingdom of heaven. It's reserved for you. You're like one of King Arthur's knights. However far a quest took them, they knew there was a seat for them at the Round Table. Your seat proves you're a child of God. If you remember that, you'll always know who you are and where you belong. You're part of God's royal family!

WORDS TO TREASURE

*You are no longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.*

—Ephesians 2:19

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the privileges you get from being a member of God's kingdom?

Some answers are: identity, courage, strength, confidence, purpose, the ability to communicate with God, guidance and help from God when you need it, eternal life in heaven, etc.

2. What are some of the responsibilities that come with being a member of God's kingdom?

Some answers are: being loyal and obedient to God, reading the Bible to learn the rules of his kingdom, loving and helping other members of God's kingdom, etc.

3. When it comes to making good choices in life, why is it so important to remember that you belong to God's kingdom?

One answer is: because if you forget this, you'll forget that you need to live according to the rules of God's kingdom, and you'll begin making bad, dangerous choices.

4. How does remembering that you belong to God's kingdom give you confidence, strength, and courage to face life's challenges?

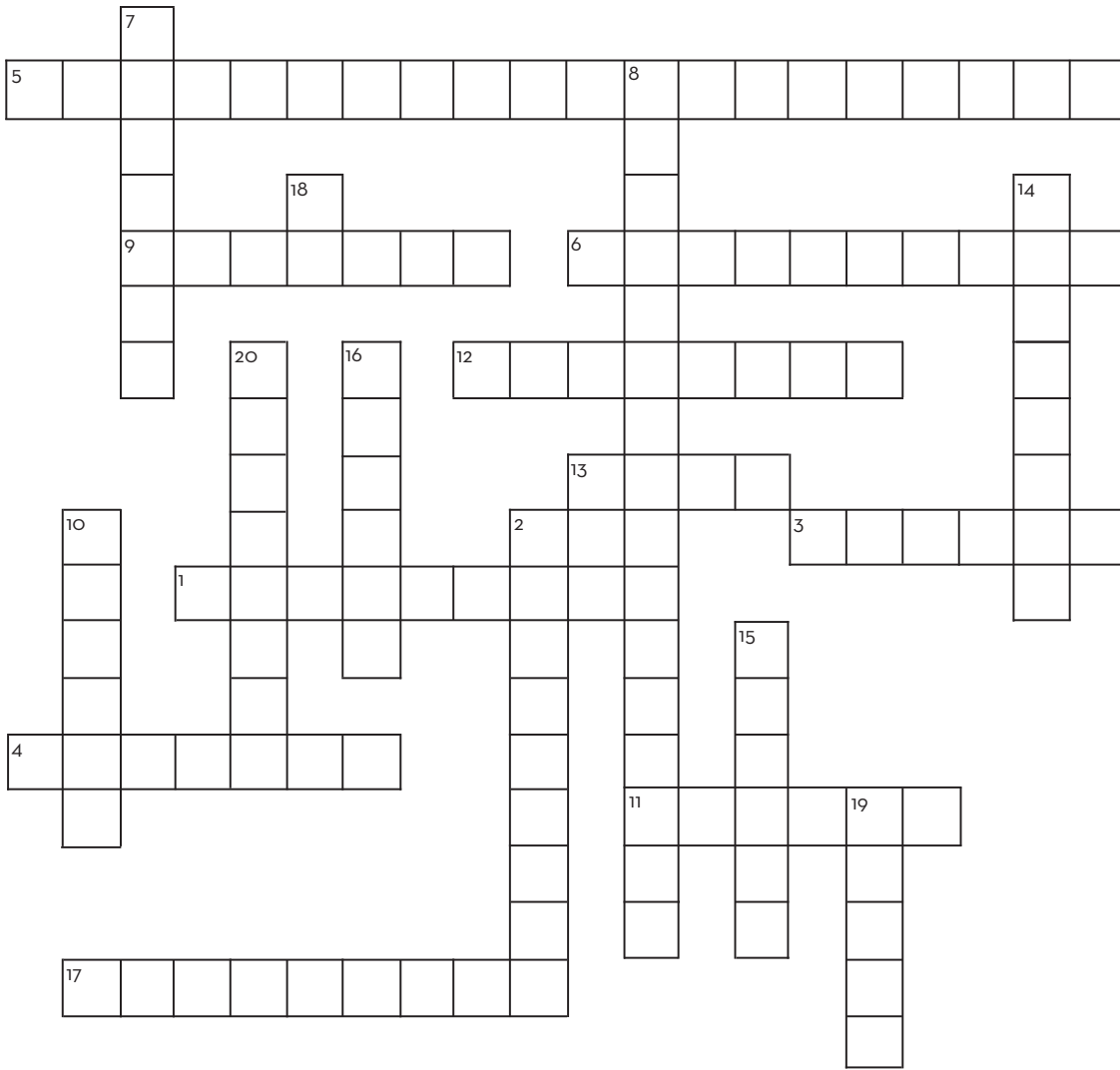
Some answers are: it helps you know the right thing to do in situations; you know God will help you, because he always looks out for his people; you have the love and support of other members of God's kingdom.

5. What are some practical things you can do every day to remind yourself that you are a member of God's kingdom?

Some answers are: write sticky notes to yourself and put them where you'll see them every morning; memorize Scripture verses, like Ephesians 2:6 and Ephesians 2:19, that remind you of who you are and where you belong; read your Bible regularly and highlight verses that talk about God's kingdom (this will help you learn more about it too!); make it a habit every day to thank God that he has made you part of his family.

Consider spending some time playing a game or doing an exercise to help children memorize the "Words to Treasure" Scripture verse.

PLACES IN THE BIBLE



Can you figure out the crossword puzzle?

ACROSS

1. The place where Moses died (Deuteronomy 34).
3. After His resurrection, two of Jesus' followers met up with their Lord on this road (Luke 24).
4. Jesus was anointed with very special perfume in this place (Mark 14).
5. Once called Topheth, or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, this place was renamed when God punished the people of Judah (Jeremiah 7) (4 words Hint: The ____ of ____).
6. The place where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God (Exodus 19) (2 words).
9. After he left Athens, the Lord told Paul not to be afraid of preaching in this place (Acts 18).
11. Moses famously parts this sea so that the Israelites can cross over into safety (Exodus 14) (2 words).
12. Only after Herod died was Joseph able to take his family back to this city (Matthew 2).
13. Where Adam and Eve lived until the Fall of Man (Genesis 2).
17. Where Solomon built a great temple to honor the Lord (1 Kings 6).

DOWN

2. Where Jesus was born (Luke 2).
7. When this city was destroyed, only Rahab and her family were spared because they helped God's people (Joshua 2).
8. God burned these to cities to the ground when they failed to follow his orders, though he spared Lot and those of his family who were willing to trust in God (Genesis 19) (3 words).
10. Joseph, later called Barnabas, was originally from this town (Acts 4).
14. The place where Saul heard God's voice and underwent a conversion (Acts 9).
15. The name of the river where John the Baptist preached and baptized people (Matthew 3).
16. Simon, who helped Jesus carry his cross, was from this city (Luke 23).
18. The name of the city where Joshua and his army suffered defeat and celebrated victory (Joshua 7-8).
19. Moses and the Israelites fled this place to escape an evil Pharaoh (Exodus 13).
20. The name of the place where Jesus was crucified (John 19).

PLACES IN THE BIBLE

Answer key

