

IDENTITY & SELF ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 7**LEADERS GOAL**

Help students celebrate their age and the stage of life they're experiencing.

SCRIPTURES

Luke 2:52
1 Timothy 4:12

ACTIVITIES

I want to be charades
Grow & Glow cards

PRAY**SUPPLIES**

- Prompt cards for I Want to Be Charades, one set per Small Group
- Post it notes (enough for 2 per student)
- Bible marked to Luke 2:52, 1 Timothy 4:12
- Create welcoming space by engaging with students as they enter the space

BOTTOM LINE

I am growing and becoming
who God intends me to be

AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

It can be fun being a child and growing up. Invite students to share fun stories of when they were little and what they did as babies and toddlers. What do they remember? What have students been told?

STORY CONNECTION

I love hearing stories of when we were little. In the Lion King, Young Simba grows into a curious lion who loves exploring and adventure. Early one morning, Mufasa takes Young Simba up to Pride Rock to explain the circle of life and how he will one day be king. Choose readers for Mufasa and Young Simba (Script, p22-23) Young Simba is excited about the news of one day being king. He shares the news with Scar. Choose readers for Scar and Young Simba (Script, p24)

OUR STORIES

- How would you finish this sentence: Right now, I love being a child/teenager because I can....
- What superpowers do children/teenagers have that adults don't?
- What's the biggest life lessons you are learning now that you think will be important to know when you are an adult?

TRUTH & TREASURE

What stories do you know of Jesus when He was growing up?

Give each student opportunity to share - little, or a lot. Allow students to hear each others stories.

Here are some to highlight - no matter what students share.

- After His birth, Jesus' family ran away to Egypt to escape King Herod, who wanted to kill the infant Jesus.
- Mary and Joseph left Jerusalem after the Passover celebration and were traveling home when they realized Jesus wasn't with them. They found him three days later in the temple courts sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. (Luke 2:41-52) (Students can act out worry of leaving Jesus behind and the surprise of finding Him three days later.)
- He learned carpentry from his earthly father, Joseph.
- Jesus studied the scriptures and the laws of Judaism as was the custom for Jewish boys.

The Bible says, Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and favor with God and man. Luke 2:52 NIV

Growing up and becoming who you are meant to be is an important job! Now is a great time to learn and try new things.

The Bible says, Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. I Timothy 4:12 NIV

How do you think Jesus was regarded in his community, his family and with his friends throughout these stories and time?

What about your life stories? How does our perspective change as we get older?

You are important now and as you grow up.

DISCOVERY TIME

GAME | I want to be charades

Supplies: prompt cards, one set for each Small Group.

One student at a time draws a prompt card and acts it out without talking (but they can make noises). Have other students guess what they are trying to portray.

Prompts:

Pet Trainer – Show us your best pet training skills.

Mystery Solver – Act out a mystery you solved - without talking!

Painter – Show off your latest painting at an art exhibit.

Slime Scientist – Describe your weirdest slime using only sound effects.

Just Dance Teacher – Teach us a 3-move dance we can all try.

Chef – Make a pizza while humming a song.

Bug Collector – Act out how you catch the coolest bug ever.

Storyteller – Make up a 1 minute story starting with “It all began with a donut....”

Comedian – Tell your silliest joke and then laugh like a hyena.

Parkour Pro – Show us how you cross a lava-filled room in slow motion.

Nature Explorer – Pretend you found a brand-new animal. Describe it to us.

YouTuber – Pretend you’re filming your newest unboxing video.

Inventor – Pitch your latest invention, but you can’t say what it is. Let us guess.

Singer – Sing a song about your favorite snack – made up on the spot.

Cartoon Voice Actor – Make up an animal character voice and say 3 silly lines in that voice.

GAME | Grow & Glow Cards

Supplies: Post it notes, markers/pens

Each student writes one “GROW” goal (something they’re working on) on a post it and one “GLOW” quality (something they already do well) on a different post it. Stick them on a wall under two columns: “Growing In” and “Glowing In” and if students feel comfortable have a conversation around the things they chose for GROW and GLOW.

Leader Tie In: Just like Simba in The Lion King, we’re all learning who we are and who we’re becoming. Growth doesn’t happen all at once — it’s a process of discovering strengths, facing challenges, and trusting that God is shaping us along the way.

The “GLOW” reminds us that God has already placed special gifts inside each of us — things that make us shine right now. The “GROW” reminds us that He’s not finished yet — we’re still learning, practicing, and becoming who He created us to be.

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” — Luke 2:52

PRAYER

Thank you, God, that we can have fun as kids, learning, exploring, and playing. Help us to grow and become who You want us to be. We believe that we are important as kids and teenagers, and we can make a difference helping others and being a good friend now. Amen.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Learn or try something new this week. Do a science experiment. Read a new book. Memorize a Bible verse. Take photos of something you admire in nature. Help a friend. Share with us next week what you choose to do or what you learn.

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Mystery Solver – Act out a solving a mystery - without talking!

Painter – Show off your latest painting at an art exhibit.

Slime Scientist – Describe your weirdest slime using only sound effects.

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Singer – Sing a song about your favorite snack – made up on the spot.

Cartoon Voice Actor – Make up an animal character voice and say 3 silly lines in that voice.

Weather Reporter – Give us a dramatic weather forecast for the craziest storm ever.

Magician – Perform a “magic trick” using only things you have in your pockets (or imaginary pockets).

Time Traveler – Arrive from the future and tell us one unbelievable thing you've seen.