



# LESSON 5 | Identity in Christ

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 12:1–8; 17:1–7, 15–17; Luke 19:1–10

**Key Verse:** John 1:12: “Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.”

**Key Question:** Who am I?

**Key Idea:** I believe I am significant because I am a child of God.

**Resource:** *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 5, “Identity in Christ”

## Master Supplies List

- Believe Storybook Bible*
- PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations
- Family Page (one per child)

## Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- OPTION 1:** Green ink pads, baby wipes, My Special Tree template (one per child)
- OPTION 4:** Crayons or markers, Let’s Color! sheet (one per child)
- OPTION 6:** Two puppets

## STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

---

- GATHER the children.

### WHO AM I THINKING OF?

- SAY, We are going to start off by playing a little game. This game is called “Who Am I Thinking Of?” I will describe someone in this class, and you all have to guess who I am thinking of.
- LEAD the children in several rounds of the game by saying, “I’m thinking of someone (fill in description with clues such as “with short black hair” or “who is wearing a blue dress”). Then ask the children, “Who am I thinking of?” Allow the children to guess the person.
- CONTINUE until all children have had a turn to be the person you are “thinking of.”

### REVIEW

- ASK, Do you know why you were able to guess who I was thinking of? (Take responses)
- SAY, It was easy to figure out because I gave you a clue that told you something special about each of you.
- SAY, There are certain things about each of you that make you special.
- CONTINUE, To God, each of his children is extra special.
- ASK, Do you know how many children God has? (Take responses)
- SAY, God has more children than any of us could count.
- SAY, Even though God has so many children, each one of us is very special to him. He knows every little thing about every single person on the planet. God knows who you are and who I am.
- SAY, Repeat after me: “God knows who I am and he loves me.” (*Children repeat*)

### KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week’s Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the children are able to say the verse from memory
- **NOTE:** You may also choose to review last week’s Key Verse together.

John 1:12

Some people did accept him                    (*nod head*)  
and did believe in his name.                (*place hands over your heart*)  
He gave them the right to become        (*point to heaven*)  
children of God.

## STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

**Supplies:** *Believe Storybook Bible*, PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations

### INTRODUCTION

- SAY, We already learned that God knows who we are. Let's say it together again to make sure we remember, "God knows who I am and he loves me." (Children repeat)
- CONTINUE, We are going to learn about some special people in the Bible. They were each special to God in different ways.
- SAY, Two of these people were named Abram and Sarai. Can you say that? (Children repeat) God showed them that they were special by giving them new names. He changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. Can you say that? (Children repeat) Those new names were God's way of saying how much he loved them.
- SAY, The other special man we're going to hear about had a funny name. Can you say Zacchaeus? (Children repeat)
- SAY, Zacchaeus begins with the letter Z.
- WRITE a large letter Z on the board.
- SAY, Let's practice writing a Z in the air with our finger. The letter Z is easy.
- DEMONSTRATE for the children how to write a letter Z in the air.
- SAY, During the story I want you to write a letter Z in the air every time you hear the name Zacchaeus. Listen closely so you can hear his name.
- SAY, Let's practice that.
- SAY, Zacchaeus.
- LEAD the children in writing a letter Z in the air.

### READ CHAPTER 5

- READ aloud the story script below or chapter 5, "Identity in Christ," from the *Believe Storybook Bible*.
- SHOW the illustrations included with this curriculum on PowerPoint slides or printable posters.

### THE STORY OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH

- What's your name? A name tells people who you are. Your parents chose your name just for you. Sometimes God even chooses names for his children. That's what happened to Abram and Sarai.

- Abram and Sarai had a nice home. They had food and servants. But they did not have any children. They wanted a baby very much.
- One day, God spoke to Abram. He said, “Leave this place and go to a new land. I will bless you with a large family.”
- Abram and Sarai believed God. They obeyed right away. They packed their things and moved to a new land. Their nephew, Lot, moved with them. They did not know where God was leading them, but they trusted God’s plan.
- Finally, they came to the land of Canaan. God said, “I will give this land to your family.” Even though they did not have any children yet, Abram and Sarai believed God.
- God was pleased with them. He gave them new names. “Your name is no longer Abram. It will be Abraham. You will be the father of many nations. Sarai will now be called Sarah. She will be the mother of kings.”
- The God who gave Abraham and Sarah new names knows your name, too! You are his child and you belong to him. You are God’s special treasure!

#### THE STORY OF ZACCHAEUS

- God can change a person’s name and he can also change a person’s heart! That’s what happened to a man named Zacchaeus when Jesus came to his town.
- Zacchaeus was a rich man. People did not like him because he took money that didn’t belong to him. He had a greedy heart.
- One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to town. He wanted to see Jesus, so he went outside. The streets were crowded. Zacchaeus couldn’t see over the heads of the taller people. Then he had an idea! Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd. He climbed a tall tree. Now he could see Jesus!
- And Jesus could see Zacchaeus. “Come down,” he called, “and take me to your home.”
- Zacchaeus was surprised and happy! But the people wondered why Jesus wanted to go to a sinner’s home.
- Zacchaeus made a feast. He told Jesus, “My heart is changed. I will give half of my things to the poor. I will pay back what I have taken.”

- Jesus was pleased. He came to Earth to find people who didn't know God. He came to change people's hearts. He saved Zacchaeus and he saved us, too.

#### REVIEW ABRAHAM AND SARAH

- ASK, What did God ask Abram to do? (Move to a new land)
- ASK, What promise did God make to Abram? (He would give him a big family and lots of land)

#### REVIEW ZACCHAEUS

- ASK, Why did Zacchaeus climb up in a tree? (Everyone was taller than he was, and he wanted to see Jesus)
- ASK, What did Jesus want Zacchaeus to do? (He wanted Zacchaeus to take him to his house)
- ASK, How did Zacchaeus change after meeting Jesus? (He was no longer greedy)
- PRAY, Thank you God for knowing my name and making me your special treasure. Amen.

## STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help children explore the lesson further.

### Option 1: My Special Tree (15 min)

**Supplies:** Green ink pads, baby wipes, the My Special Tree sheet (one per child)

**NOTE:** Instead of using ink pads and stamping the children's fingerprints, you may instead choose to trace each child's handprints on the branches of the tree.

**Teacher Prep:** Print and photocopy the My Special Tree sheet (one per child).

- SAY, Jesus found Zacchaeus up in a big tree. Today we are going to make a big tree.
- SAY, We want to make this tree extra special.
- GIVE children a thumbs-up, and ask them to also give you a thumbs-up.

- SAY, Did you know that no one else in the whole world has hands exactly like yours? Because each of you is special, each of your hands is special too. The soft part of your thumb is the most special part.
- SHOW the children the soft part of the thumb.
- INSTRUCT the children to look closely at their thumbs.
- SHOW the children the swirling pattern on their thumb, and explain that this is their thumbprint.
- SAY, God made you different from anyone else on Earth. No one has the same thumbprint you do.
- ILLUSTRATE this by pressing your own thumb to an inkpad and pressing it onto a branch of the tree.
- SAY, We are going to use our thumbprints to make a special tree to remind you of the story of Zacchaeus and how you are special to God!
- GIVE each child a My Special Tree sheet.
- HELP children use green inkpads to create thumbprint leaves all over the branches.
- USE the baby wipes to clean the children’s thumbs when they are finished.

### Option 2: I Spy (10 min)

- SAY, Why did Zacchaeus climb up into the tree in the story? (He couldn’t see Jesus)
- SAY, When he was up in the tree, he could see much better.
- CONTINUE, We are going to play a game about seeing things. The game is called “I Spy.”
- CHOOSE a child to come up front and pretend to be Zacchaeus.
- INSTRUCT the child to choose something in the room and whisper it in your ear, and then lead the children in a round of “I Spy.” Help the child come up with clues to describe the object. If he or she chooses a plant in the room, your clues could be “I spy something green” or “I spy something that has leaves.” After each clue, have the other children raise their hands and guess until someone guesses the object correctly. Then select another child to choose an object for another round of “I Spy.”
- CONTINUE the game until all children have had a turn.

### Option 3: Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man (10 min)

- TEACH the lyrics to the song “Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man.” (You can find videos with lyrics for this song on the Internet.)
- SING the song several times, adding actions such as climbing, swinging from branches, or looking with fake binoculars to make the song more interactive.

## Option 4: Let's Color! (10 min)

---

**Supplies:** Crayons or markers, Let's Color! sheet (one per child)

**Teacher Prep:** Print and photocopy the Let's Color! sheet (one per child).

---

- GIVE each child a coloring page.
- PROVIDE a selection of crayons and/or markers for the children to share.
- DISCUSS this week's Key Idea as the children color.

## Option 5: Praise and Worship (15 min)

"Jesus Loves Me," public domain

"I am a 'C,'" Marilyn Ham

© 1990 by Lillenas Publishing Company

CCLI #4298212

## Option 6: Act It Out (10 min)

Who Are You?

---

The characters in this script can be played by two puppets or by a teacher, class helper, or student leader.

### Characters

Tim     *a younger child with questions*

Jamie   *an older child with the answers*

**Optional Props:** Two puppets

---

**SAY, Each time I point to you, you repeat as loudly as you can what Jamie just said. Ready?**

**Tim:** Hello? Who are you?

**Jamie:** I'm Jamie. I'm a child of God!

*(POINT at class)*

**Class:** I'M A CHILD OF GOD!

**Tim:** What if you've been naughty, are you still a child of God?

**Jamie:** I'm a child of God even when I'm naughty.

*(POINT at class)*

**Class:** I'M A CHILD OF GOD EVEN WHEN I'M NAUGHTY!

**Tim:** What if you're sad, are you still a child of God?

**Jamie:** I'm a child of God even when I'm sad.

*(POINT at class)*

**Class:** I'M A CHILD OF GOD EVEN WHEN I'M SAD!

**Tim:** What if you are scared, are you still a child of God?

**Jamie:** I'm a child of God even when I'm scared.

*(POINT at class)*

**Class:** I'M A CHILD OF GOD EVEN WHEN I'M SCARED!

**Tim:** What if you disobey God, are you still a child of God?

**Jamie:** I'm still a child of God even when I disobey.

*(POINT at class)*

**Class:** I'M A CHILD OF GOD EVEN WHEN I DISOBEY!

**Tim:** Wouldn't that make God sad?

**Jamie:** Yes, but I am still a child of God. And I would ask God to forgive me for making him sad.

**Tim:** How many children does God have?

**Jamie:** Everyone who loves him and follows him is his child.

**Tim:** That's a lot of children! How does he keep up with all of them?

**Jamie:** Our God is a big God with enough love for everyone. You sure ask a lot of questions!

**Tim:** *(shrugging)* That's part of what makes *me* special. I love to ask questions! Can I ask you one last question, Jamie?

**Jamie:** Sure.

**Tim:** Are all of God's children special?

**Jamie:** Yes, we are all special because God made us. He made only one you, and he made only one me! Say these words after me: I'm a child of God, and he loves me just the way I am!

**Class:** I'M A CHILD OF GOD, AND HE LOVES ME JUST THE WAY I AM!"

*(TIM and JAMIE high-five and exit)*



## STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

---

**Supplies:** Family Page (one per child)

---

- GIVE each child a copy of this week's Family Page.
- SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family that today we learned that God knows who you are!
- HAVE children repeat, "God knows who I am and he loves me."
- REVIEW this week's Key Verse as well as today's story and Key Idea from the *Believe Storybook Bible* as you wait for the children to get picked up.
- MAKE sure each child remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.















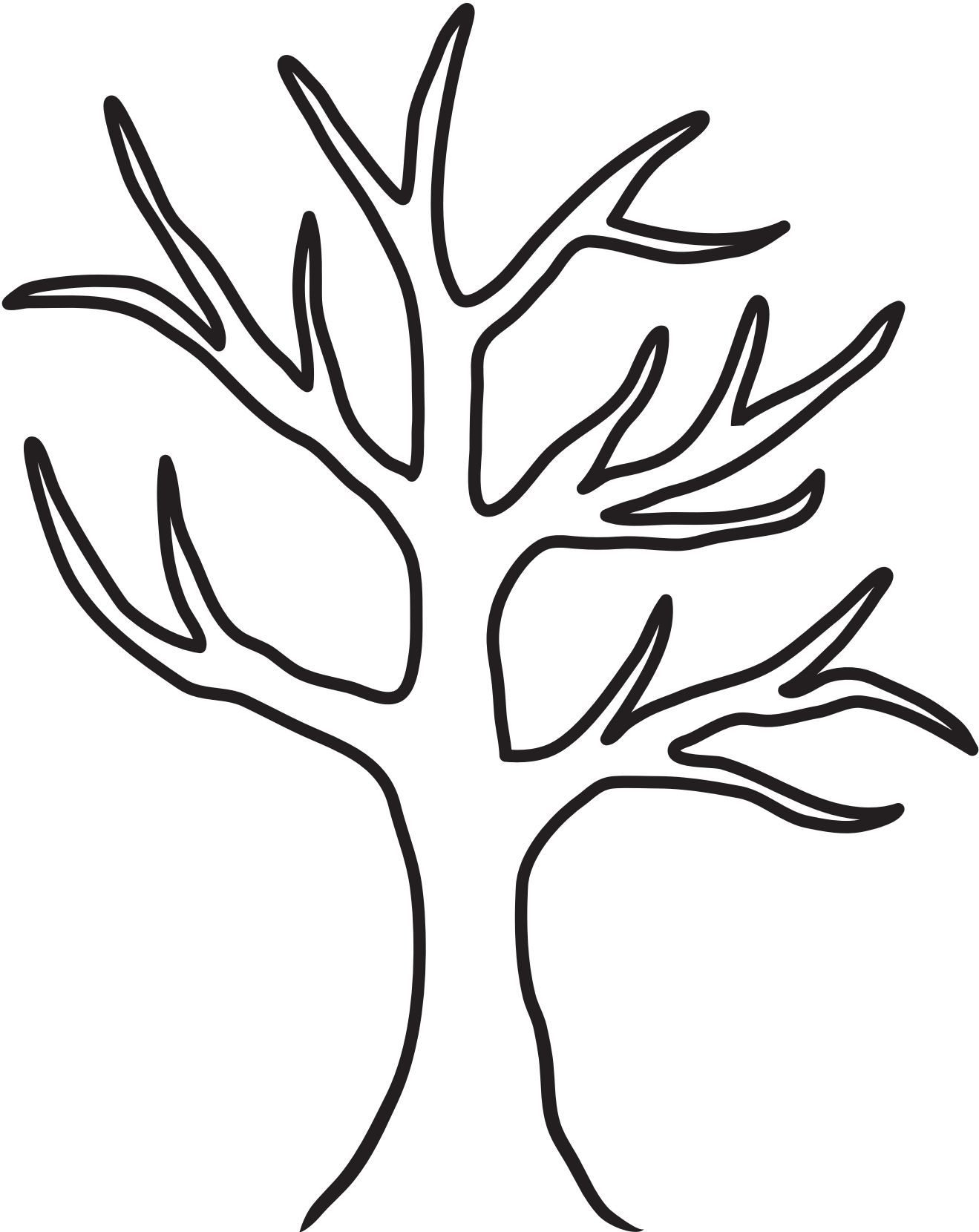






My Special Tree

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Let's Color!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 5: Identity in Christ

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 12:1–8; 17:1–7, 15–17; Luke 19:1–10

**Key Verse:** John 1:12: “Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.”

**Key Question:** Who am I?

**Key Idea:** I believe I am significant because I am a child of God.

**Resource:** *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 5, “Identity in Christ”

## How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis verses from your Bible to help your child remember it. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

## Table Talk

1. Why did Jesus want to visit Zacchaeus at his house? (He wanted to spend time with him)
2. If Jesus came to our house, what special things would you want to do with him? What would you say to him?
3. How would you get our home ready for Jesus to visit?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

The story of Zacchaeus is a great Bible story to act out at home. Provide your child with a safe place where he or she can pretend to be Zacchaeus climbing up into the tree. Have an adult or older child pretend to be Jesus walking by and inviting Zacchaeus to come down and spend some time with him.

## Option 2

Play a simpler version of 20 Questions with your child. You think of a person or animal, but instead of your child asking questions about the identity of the person or animal, you will give clues and have your child guess after each clue. By giving clues about what makes that person or animal special, you can help your child figure out the identity.

## Extra Mile

- Help your child this week to learn the Key Verse by playing Bible Memory Tag. Review your child's Key Verse several times, and then play a round of Bible Memory Tag in which you begin the game with you as "It." When you tag your child, they must recite the verse correctly. If they can, they will be "it" and get to chase you. When they tag you, you must recite the verse.
- Help your child to retain the story of Zacchaeus by reading the Bible story together a few times during the week. Have your child draw you a picture.
- Sing the song "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" together. You can find videos with lyrics for this song on the Internet if you're not familiar with the words or the tune.