

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

Life can feel like a brutal game of musical chairs when it comes to identity. One moment you're an athlete, the next you're injured. You're "popular" until friends ghost you. You're "funny" until someone outshines you. But identity built on shifting chairs always leaves you standing empty. The truth? Your identity is not in what you do, what people say, or what happens to you. It's in who God says you are: His child.

From Genesis to the resurrection of Jesus, God's story has always been about relationship. He didn't just want to save you—He wanted to raise you as His son or daughter. Through Jesus, the Judge became your Father, and the Son became your big Brother. You don't have to fight for a seat anymore. You already have a name, a place, and a home in God's family.

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 👉 Identity built on anything that changes will always crumble.
  - 👉 The gospel isn't just about getting to Heaven—it's about becoming family.
  - 👉 Jesus didn't die to give you a label. He died to give you a name.
  - 👉 God isn't just your Judge—He's your Father.
  - 👉 You are chosen, adopted, and unshakably secure as a child of God.
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## KEY SCRIPTURES

- 💡 **Genesis 1:26–27** — “Let us make man in our image...”
  - 💡 **Romans 8:15–16** — “You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”
  - 💡 **John 20:17** — “I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.”
  - 💡 **Hebrews 2:10–11** — “Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”
  - 💡 **John 14:6** — “No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
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## ICEBREAKER

- What was your go-to game growing up—musical chairs, dodgeball, hide-and-seek? Why?
  - If you could have any celebrity or famous person adopt you into their family, who would it be and why?
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## SURFACE LEVEL

- What part of tonight's message stood out or challenged you most?
  - Why do you think people look for identity in things like sports, grades, or popularity?
  - How have you personally felt the pressure of "musical chairs" when it comes to identity?
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## DEEP DIVE

- Read **Genesis 1:26–27**. Why is being made in God's image such a big deal for our identity?
  - Read **John 20:17**. How does the resurrection change our relationship with God?
  - Read **Romans 8:15–16**. What's the difference between being a "slave" to fear and being adopted as God's child?
  - Read **Hebrews 2:10–11**. How does it feel knowing Jesus is your "big brother" and isn't ashamed of you?
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## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- **Where do you tend to look for identity**—sports, grades, relationships, looks, or something else?
  - How does knowing you are adopted by God change the way you see yourself?
  - **What labels** do you need to let go of so you can fully embrace your identity as God's son or daughter?
  - How might your relationship with your earthly father affect **how you see God as Father**?
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## PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

👉 Choose one this week:

1. Each morning, declare: ***"I am not what I do. I am a child of God."***
2. Write down 3 labels you've been tempted to live by—**cross them out and replace them with "Son" or "Daughter."**
3. Spend 10 minutes this week in prayer simply addressing God as *Father*.

💡 **Challenge:** Each day, when you feel pressure to earn love or prove yourself, pause and remind yourself: *"I already have a seat at the table. I already have a name. I already belong."*

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## **CLOSING PRAYER** 🙏


*"Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family. Forgive me for chasing identity in things that don't last. Help me to live every day as Your son/daughter, confident in Your love. Thank You that I don't have to fight for a seat or earn Your approval—I already belong. Amen."*

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# SPIRITUAL GROWTH FOCUS

## STEP #8 — EMBRACE YOUR IDENTITY

 Why is this crucial? Because if you don't know who you are in Christ, you'll try to find it in all the wrong places.

 Weekly Commitments:

- ✓ Memorize Romans 8:15–16.
- ✓ Each morning, remind yourself: “I am God’s child.”
- ✓ Share with a friend what identity-label you’ve struggled with and ask them to pray for you.