



COMMUNICATOR GUIDE

What Was I Made For? / Week 3

SERIES OVERVIEW

SERIES SUMMARY

A series about identity and belonging.

SERIES BOTTOM LINE

A series about identity and belonging.

WEEKLY BOTTOM LINES

WEEK 1: You were made to be real with yourself and others.

WEEK 2: I am made for more than what I have.

WEEK 3: I am made for more than what I (can) do.

WEEK 4: I am made for more than what others think of me.

SCRIPTURE

...For through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him (Colossians 1:16 NLT).

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK

THINK ABOUT THIS

It's easy for any of us to find our sense of self in the gifts and talents we have. Why? Because they're obvious to others. The more points we score, the better we are in school, the more popular we are, the more gifted we are in any skill, and the more others around us take notice and connect our worth to those things, whether students realize it or not. While being good at or gifted in any area of life isn't a negative thing, it's important to help students untangle that talent from who they are as people and the value they have as individuals. Gifts, talents, skills, and the like are all subject to change. They'll come and go, and, if they're the foundation of who we are, we'll be shaken completely when they go. Remind students of this truth as you encourage them to find value in who God made them to be, not what God made them to do. And of course, be mindful of students who may have disabilities or limitations that keep them from being able to do the same things other students can do more easily. How they're made is just as valuable as anyone else, so be sure to use language that is inclusive to all abilities and skills.

INTERACTIVE 1: HOMERUN CELEBRATION

OVERVIEW

For this Interactive, you'll show how leveling up can be admirable by playing a video of a parent/guardian cheering for their kid as they hit their first homerun in baseball or softball.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A video clip of a parent/guardian celebrating their kid's first homerun (We found that searching "parent happy for kid's homerun" came up with some great options.)
- A way to play the clip for your audience.

PREP

- View and test the video before showing it to your students. Be sure the quality is high and the sound is clear.

TEACHING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

- We're in week three of a series called *What Was I Made For?* Over the past few weeks, we've been talking all about identity and seeing ourselves as God sees us.
- I'd love to know who in here plays Fortnite. *[Pause to give students time to answer.]* I knew we'd have some in here!
- I'd love to know what everyone's level is in Fortnite. *[Pause to give students time to answer.]*
- That's what makes the game so fun: leveling up!
- We all want to level up. *[Give relevant examples for middle schoolers.]*

TENSION

- Leveling up is a part of life.
- Now, there's nothing wrong with leveling up. A lot of times, we're encouraged to level up, and we're celebrated when we do.
- *[INTERACTIVE: Homerun Celebration: This is where you'll show how leveling up can be admirable by playing a video of a parent/guardian cheering for their kid as they hit their first homerun in baseball or softball.]*
- Striving to get better at something is admirable. Spending your time becoming great at something is a good thing.
- But when how you think about your level—or what you can do or achieve—becomes your identity? That's a problem.
- When we find our value and worth in what we do, we're setting ourselves up for failure.
- We must answer the question: Why do we so badly want to make it to the next level?
- Most of the time our desire for the next level is rooted in a few things.
 - For some of us in the room, maybe we don't feel good enough.
 - For others, maybe we don't feel loved enough.
 - For some of us, maybe we don't feel like we can be our true selves.
- Oftentimes, we feel like if anyone knew who we really were, they wouldn't like us or accept us. We hide behind our accomplishments and create an almost fake version of ourselves to show others.
- But is that really what's best?

TRUTH

- Paul wrote a letter to the church in Colossae, and it's obvious he wanted to make sure the Colossians were reminded of how to keep this problem in check.
- Paul knew that if they fell into the trap of constantly trying to level up, they'd forget who they were. They'd forget what God says about them and maybe even what God had already done for them.
- In the letter Paul wrote the following:
 - *...For through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers,*

and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him (Colossians 1:16 NLT).

- Paul said that all things—in heaven and earth—were created by God.
- In fact, it wasn't just created by God; it was already created FOR God.
- You were created FOR God as well.
- You were created in the image of your Creator, and your Creator is love. You were created by God to love and be loved.
- Your image has already been established. When God looks at you, God sees so many things. *[Give examples.]*
- Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we don't have to try to level up. Jesus' death and resurrection were God's way of saying you are worthy.
- The truth you can tell yourself is this: I am made for more than what I (can) do.

APPLICATION

- So, in light of this amazing truth, let me ask you two really important questions:
 - First: Is your view of yourself shaped by what you do instead of who you are?
 - And second: Are you building your life on something really temporary?
- This is the truth we can believe for ourselves: I am made for more than what I (can) do.

LANDING

- When God looks at you, what do you think God sees?

TEACHING SLIDES

All bolded words and phrases in the Teaching Script are also provided as teaching slides for Premium Tier subscribers.



TEACHING SCRIPT

What Was I Made For? / Week 3

BOTTOM LINE

I AM MADE FOR MORE THAN WHAT I (CAN) DO.

INTRODUCTION

1 1/2 MINUTES

Hey everyone! My name is _____, and I'm so glad you're here today! You picked the perfect time to hang out with us as we're in week three of a series called *What Was I Made For?* Over the past few weeks, we've been talking all about identity and seeing ourselves as God sees us.

To get us started, I'd love to know who in here plays Fortnite. *[Pause to give students time to answer.]* I knew we'd have some in here! On the count of three, I'd love to know what everyone's level is in Fortnite. . . yell it out! 1, 2, 3! *[Pause to give students time to answer.]* Awesome! It's such a fun game, and it's crazy to see how it continues to take the world of gaming to the next level. That's what makes the game so fun: leveling up!

How many of you are totally fine with the level you're currently at in Fortnite? I mean, if you never played again, you would be okay with your current level. No, you would not! That's the whole point of the game—to get to the next level! There's always a chance to move up to the next level; it's why we keep playing it. There's always another way to level up our character. V-bucks are everywhere. We ask for them for birthdays and Christmas. There's always another skin to buy, features to earn, and skills to unlock.

We all want to level up.

If you play sports, you want to level up in your sport. There's always a higher-level travel team to make. Another championship to win. A starting position to earn.

If you play an instrument, you want to level up. You want to be the first chair. In competition, you want to score the maximum number of points. You want a standing ovation at the end of your recital.

TENSION

3 MINUTES

Leveling up is a part of life. We spend hours, days, weeks, and, in some cases, years trying to level up.

Now, there's nothing wrong with leveling up. In most cases, no one wants to level *down*. In fact, if we're honest, sometimes it's pretty embarrassing to level down. So, leveling up isn't a bad thing. A lot of times, we're encouraged to level up, and we're celebrated when we do.

Let me show you what I mean.

INTERACTIVE: Homerun Celebration

This is where you'll show how leveling up can be admirable by playing a video of a parent/guardian cheering for their kid as they hit their first homerun in baseball or softball.

Striving to get better at something is admirable. That homerun we just saw wouldn't have happened if that kid hadn't put in the hard work during practice. You should put in the hard work, too; you should try to be the best at whatever you are doing. Spending your time becoming great at something is a good thing. And like we just saw, being celebrated for it is a good thing, too!

But when how you think about your level—or what you can do or achieve—becomes your identity? That's a problem.

When our talents, or what we're good at, begin to be the only things we're known for, that's when we start having an identity problem. When our achievements, or the things we've done, become the best things about us, we begin to have an identity problem. When how many followers we have on social media is where we find our value? Again, an identity problem!

When we find our value and worth in what we do, we're setting ourselves up for failure. We quickly become only as good as what we do and how well we do it. We begin building the foundation of our lives on something that is temporary—something that won't be there forever.

What we eventually discover is that we'll never be truly satisfied in achieving the next level. We may be satisfied for a little while, but there will always be another level to get to.

But we must answer the question: **Why do we so badly want to make it to the next level?**

Most of the time our desire for the next level is rooted in a few things. For some of us in the room, maybe we don't feel good enough. So, we work hard to make sure we look good enough or we perform well enough.

For others, maybe we don't feel loved enough. So, we take things to the next level in our relationships with our family, friends, and others because it makes us feel better about ourselves.

For some of us, maybe we don't feel like we can be our true selves. So, we spend our time building a fake version of ourselves who looks like they have it all together.

Oftentimes, we feel like if anyone knew who we really were, they wouldn't like us or accept us. So, we hide behind our accomplishments and create an almost fake version of ourselves to show others. This can keep everyone, including God, at a distance. It's a way to protect our image—to make sure that we're seen as good enough.

But is that really what's best?

TRUTH

2 MINUTES

We aren't the first group of people to struggle with this. In fact, Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament, had something to say about that. Paul wrote a letter to the church in Colossae, and it's obvious he wanted to make sure the Colossians were reminded of how to keep this problem in check. Paul knew that if they fell into the trap of constantly trying to level up, they'd forget who they were. They'd

forget what God says about them and maybe even what God had already done for them. I think we can read this today and discover the healthiest perspective for us to have about our identity.

In the letter Paul wrote the following:

...For through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him (Colossians 1:16 NLT).

Paul was making sure that we have the proper perspective. He wrote that God is an all-powerful Creator. Paul said that all things—in heaven and earth—were created by God. Everything we see and everything we cannot see, God created.

In fact, it wasn't just created by God; it was already created FOR God. And that includes YOU! You were created FOR God as well. And since God created you, don't you think God cares about you?

You were created in the image of your Creator, and your Creator is love. God is love. You were created by God to love and be loved.

Here's the thing: Your image has already been established. It has already been created. When God looks at you, God sees you as:

**God's child,
forgiven,
blameless,
accepted,
worthy,
significant,
valued,
loved.**

And there's even more! Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we don't have to try to level up. God has already done the leveling up for us. Jesus' death and resurrection were God's way of saying **you are worthy**. You don't have to keep chasing this never-ending road of trying to level up. You don't have to keep trying to be good enough. You are enough because Jesus' death and resurrection say you are enough.

The truth you can tell yourself is this: **I am made for more than what I (can) do.**

APPLICATION

1 1/2 MINUTES

So, in light of this amazing truth, let me ask you two really important questions:

First: **Is your view of yourself shaped by what you do instead of who you are?** Are you spending so much time trying to get to the next level only to reach it and not be satisfied? Only to find yourself trying harder and striving for the next level? If your doing—your accomplishments, talents, achievements, followers—has become what makes you valuable, what happens if you can't or don't do it anymore?

And second: **Are you building your life on something really temporary?** You may be thinking, *I'm in middle school. Chill out. I have a lot of life ahead of me!* True, you do have a lot of living to do. But now is when you're building the foundation for the rest of your life. And your life can't just be built on temporary

things. It makes sense to place our identity in something or Someone so much better and so much stronger than achievements, or popularity, or status. Someone who is worthy of your attention, your talents, and your accomplishments. Someone who looks at you and sees you as worth it. Someone who sees you as worthy regardless of your accomplishments or your failures. The One who created you: God.

Because at the end of the day, this is the truth we can believe for ourselves:

I am made for more than what I (can) do.

LANDING

1 MINUTE

In your Small Group, think about this: **When God looks at you, what do you think God sees?**



TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS
