

# MIDDLE SCHOOL IDENTITY IN CHRIST

# 13

UNITE  
I AM CALLED

# SERVANTS ARE STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL

**SERIES:**  
**GOD IS THE MASTER — I AM A SERVANT**



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**UNITE: I AM CALLED**

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

**BIG TRUTH: SERVANTS ARE STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL****BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2**

*“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”*

**BIG IDEAS**

- Servants of Jesus want to be known for their allegiance to Him and to the gospel.
- Servants of Jesus have been and are being transformed by the mercy and grace of the gospel.
- Servants of Jesus proclaim the good news and mystery of the gospel.

**BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4; 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17****SERIES AIMS****[KNOW] Every student should know that...**

- They are a servant of Jesus
- They have been forgiven an unimaginable debt
- To be a servant means to lay down their lives

**[DO] Every student should strive to...**

- Forgive anyone who has wronged them as Jesus has forgiven them
- Walk by faith instead of giving into anxiety
- Be known by their allegiance to Christ and the gospel

**[FEEL] Every student should feel...**

- Awe at the forgiveness they have experienced in Christ
- Thankful for the grace that brought them from death to life and into God’s family
- Unworthy of the mercy and grace they have received

**[WANT] Every student should desire to...**

- Be faithful and pursue obedience to God
- Sacrifice their comfort and control for the sake of the gospel
- Be committed to Christ above all else

**STUDENT WORKOUT OVERVIEW:**

Jesus’ servants are stewards of His gospel. This week we will ponder what it means to be a steward of the gospel. We will pray for wisdom to steward the gospel well and we will practice proclaiming the good news of Jesus.

**FAMILY WORKOUT OVERVIEW:**

Servants of Jesus steward His gospel. This week we will consider how to discuss with our son or daughter what it means to be a steward of the gospel. We will pray for our son or daughter to desire to be a good steward and we will lead them to practice proclaiming the gospel to their lost friends.

**BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2**

*“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”*

**God’s people are known as servants.**

*“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ...”*

- Being a follower of Christ means becoming like Him. Christ is a servant and came to the earth to serve, not to be served. Paul reminds us that we should be known as servants. We should be regarded and thought of as people who serve Christ by serving others.
- In order to be known as a servant, our lives must be lived in service to Jesus and those around us. Being known as a servant is more than serving once or twice. It is a lifestyle of service for a lifetime.

**God’s people steward His truth.**

*“...as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”*

- A steward is someone who manages something that has been entrusted to him. To steward God’s truth is to be entrusted with His truth, to understand it, and to do with it what God has commanded. The mysteries of God spoken of in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 is the gospel.
- The gospel is a mystery to those who have yet to believe it. God’s servants know the mystery and understand the gospel; therefore, they can steward it well for the glory of God.

**God’s people are faithful servants.**

*“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”*

- Being a steward of God’s gospel means doing so faithfully. In order to be faithful, God’s servants must faithfully obey His Word each and every day. To be faithful to God is paramount to stewarding God’s gospel well.
- As we are faithful to God ourselves, we can share with others the truth of the gospel and steward the good news that has been given to us as His redeemed people.

## **BIG IDEA #1: SERVANTS OF JESUS WANT TO BE KNOWN FOR THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO HIM AND TO THE GOSPEL.<sup>1</sup>**

### **[ THIS ]**

We are known for the things we love and spend our time doing. If we love the world and engage in worldly activities, this will be what we are known for. As followers of Jesus, we should want to be known as servants because Jesus is a servant. Jesus' servants desire to be like Him and to be known for the things that He is known for. They desire to be known for their allegiance to Him first and foremost. His servants live to please God and not man. They live to seek God's glory and to align their hearts and lives with His Word. When believers live this way, they are known for their allegiance to Jesus. The decisions they make, activities they participate in, and ways they spend their time reveal to whom they are devoted to above all else. Our allegiance should be to Christ first. We should cast away the things of the world and live for Him alone, no matter what it may cost us in this life.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**Can you tell more about where someone's allegiances lie by what they say or what they do? What does your life reveal about your allegiances?**

In this life, we can be tempted to give our allegiance to other people. Galatians 1:10 and Proverbs 29:25 remind us of the snare that this type of living is for us. 1. A person who lives for Christ is a person who lives in obedience to God. We can't say we love Christ and lives for the world. We will be hypocrites and our lives will reveal our allegiance is to the world.

### **[ THIS ]**

Having an allegiance to Jesus above all else means being committed to the gospel. God entrusts His people with His truth. He equips them with His Spirit and commands them to tell others His truth. Being committed to the gospel means living in a way that enables you to tell others. You position your life and choose activities that put you in a position to encounter people who need to hear the gospel. You also live faithfully to God so that your daily life is not so opposite of God's truth that you disqualify yourself from telling others about Jesus. Having an allegiance to the gospel means that you remind yourself of it every day and you desire to tell others this good news. Your whole life becomes about sharing the gospel and living the gospel out. You do not fear man or anything that man can do to you. This is an allegiance to God and the gospel.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**What does it look like for you to be committed to the gospel?**

Being committed to the gospel means being like Christ. 1 John 2:6 teaches us this truth. If we are committed to the gospel, we are committed to being like Christ. Jesus was committed to the gospel and lived His life for the glory of God. Romans 14:8 also helps us understand what a life committed to the gospel looks like. No matter what we do or what happens to us, we are faithful to Jesus.

**What behaviors and attitudes do you need to change or adjust to be committed to the gospel?**

Often, we are distracted by the things of this world. Proverbs 4:25 reminds us to keep our gaze fixed upon the goal, which is being like Jesus. Our allegiance will be to Jesus alone when we focus our minds and hearts on Him and make the gospel our top priority.

1. 1 Samuel 12:24: God's people serve Him above anyone else. They seek to please Him and devote themselves to Him alone.

## **BIG IDEA #2: SERVANTS OF JESUS HAVE BEEN AND ARE BEING TRANSFORMED BY THE MERCY AND GRACE OF THE GOSPEL.<sup>2</sup>**

### **[ THIS ]**

In 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Paul writes about his transformation from a sinner to a new creation in Christ. Paul considered himself the chief of sinners. Prior to his salvation, he persecuted Christians and fought against them. After his salvation, he was a true servant of Jesus. He was transformed from sinner to redeemed when he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. He no longer acted ignorantly in unbelief or trusted in his own knowledge. Just like Paul, every servant of Jesus is transformed by the gospel at the moment of salvation. This transformation happens because of the mercy and grace of God. He shows mercy to those who trust in Jesus and He shows them grace by forgiving them the sin debt they owe. Believers become new creations and are transformed from sinners to redeemed people when they believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**What does it mean to be transformed? Does your life reveal that you have been transformed?**

Being transformed involves a change from one thing to a different thing. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 help us understand what it means to be transformed by the mercy and grace of the gospel. When we are transformed, we become new creations.

### **[ THIS ]**

Transformation doesn't stop at salvation. God's servants are being transformed by the gospel day by day. This means that believers are renewed daily by the work of the Holy Spirit and the grace and mercy of the gospel. God's Spirit works inside of His redeemed people to make them more and more like Christ. God transforms His people to enable them to be faithful stewards of His gospel. His transforming work in their lives helps them become more faithful stewards every day as they endeavor to serve Him. Our daily transformation involves our abiding in Jesus and seeking to obey God's Word. This daily transformation is possible because God shows us mercy by relieving us of the sin debt we owe and by giving us forgiveness, which we do not deserve. If not for this mercy and grace, we would not be transformed.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**What behaviors and attitudes show you that you are being transformed by the mercy and grace of the gospel?**

1 Peter 2:1, Galatians 5:16-18, and Colossians 3:9-10 help us understand the transformation that happens in our daily lives when we know Jesus. We put off the things of the flesh and we no longer participate or act on the sinful desires we once had. Instead, we seek to obey God. We want to know Him and obey His commands.

**Consider Paul's transformation. How have you seen daily transformation in the life of a fellow believer?**

As we see others grow in their walk, we are encouraged to grow in ours. God's body works together to increase in their faith. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us of the influence our personal transformation can have others and the way we can be influenced by the transformation of other believers<sup>3</sup>

2. 2 Corinthians 3:18: *We are transformed day by day to reflect the image of God more accurately.*

## BIG IDEA #3: SERVANTS OF JESUS PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS AND MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In 1 Corinthians 4:1, Paul speaks of the mysteries of the gospel. The gospel is mysterious to those who have yet to believe it. Because we cannot understand it, it seems foreign or mysterious to us. Our sin natures blind us to the truth of the gospel. We need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and guide us to Jesus, our Savior. As God's servants, we are entrusted with this mystery. We understand the gospel and we are no longer blind to its truth. We know the mercy and grace of the gospel and that it is indeed good news to those who believe. Unless we ourselves comprehend the mystery of the gospel, we cannot steward it well. What makes God's people his people is that they know that the gospel is good news and they understand its mysteries.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Why is the gospel called a mystery? How does your understanding of the mystery of the gospel help you proclaim it?**

The gospel is called a mystery because we do not understand it without the help of the Holy Spirit. Mark 4:11-12 gives us an example of the significance of understanding the mystery of the gospel. To those who do understand it, they are equipped to share it. We are not given an understanding of the gospel just for our own salvation, but that we might tell others this good news.

### [ THIS ]

The gospel is good news to the world. Without the gospel, we would have no hope! Because Jesus came into the world and died for us, there is hope for the world! God's servants proclaim this good news to others. As His servants we want to tell people about Jesus and the hope they can have in Him. Because we understand the mystery of the gospel, we can tell others about Jesus and how they, too, might be saved from the sin debt they owe. We are entrusted as God's ambassadors and servants with this great news. We are equipped and commanded to fulfill God's command for all of His redeemed people that they tell others who He is and the great work He has done. This is how we are good stewards of the grace and mercy that God has shown us. We do not want to squander the grace or mercy or take it for granted. Instead, we want to steward it in a way that expands God's kingdom by telling others that they can be saved from their hopeless life.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What are some fears and distractions that keep you from proclaiming the gospel as a good steward?**

Mark 4:18-20 helps us understand how we can become distracted from proclaiming the gospel. Either we do not truly know God or we become distracted by the enticing things in the world. Additionally, we can give in to the temptation to fear man and choose not to tell others about Jesus.

**With whom can you proclaim the mercy and grace of the gospel this week?**

The exchange between Jesus and Peter in John 21:15-17 helps us understand the heart of God and His desire for His people to proclaim the good news of the gospel. There are lost people in your life that need to hear the gospel. You can be a good steward of the gospel by sharing the truth of the gospel with them.

3. Matthew 28:19-20: God's people declare His gospel to the world.