KNOWN LOVED & LED

Helping Children Know Who They Were Created to Be



Wonder Ink DAVID C COOK



Known, Loved, and Led:

Helping Children Know Who They Were Created to Be

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INTRODUCTION

Children are inundated with messages every single day about their identity. It's our job to help them to know what is always true—what God says is true. Because what kids believe about themselves influences their thoughts and decisions.

This topic can feel overwhelming, it's our goal to help with practical ideas that support rather than overwhlem. This simple, 2-part guide will:

1. Give you language to share with children to teach and remind them of who they were created to be. (Page 2)
2. Equip you, the parent or ministry leader, with ideas for theological guideposts that will help you share Scripture with the children in your care. (Page 12)

We can help kids discover that their identity is found in God's Big Story—where Jesus is Lord and the Holy Spirit is present. And we need to leave room for their big questions and big ideas while leaving no doubt about who God is or who they are in Him.

Our kids are image-bearing children of God, and we can declare this truth over them!


HELPING
CHILDREN
KNOW WHO
THEY WERE
CREATED TO BE

4 THINGS EVERY CHILD NEEDS TO KNOW

Every child deserves to know who they were created to be—that they were each made on purpose for a purpose, and our good God in heaven loves them so much!

We have the opportunity to share Jesus and invite kids into the story they were created for. In this section, you'll be equipped with language for sharing truth with kids.

I am known by God.

When kids understand that God knows them—every part of them—it reassures them that they have nothing to hide. There's nothing to run from when you are known. It's a simple statement that brings our hearts near to God.

I am led by the Holy Spirit.

When kids choose Jesus as their Savior and walk closely with Him, they can trust the Holy Spirit will lead the way. This takes the pressure off of kids—the pressure to be, do, and become.

I am loved by Jesus.

When kids comprehend that they are fully known and fully loved, it's life changing. God knows the messy parts of them and loves them the same. His love and His grace are really good.

I am a child of God. And my life can tell of God's wonder.

Our children get to know who they truly are and who they were made to be. God delights in them and they get to respond to His love!


I AM
KNOWN

GOD KNOWS ME.

God, the Creator of all, knows me. He has always known me. He has had me in mind from the very beginning. He made me, and I am His masterpiece. He made me in His own image to do the amazing things He has prepared for me to do.

I am KNOWN by the Creator and that means I BELONG.

I get to be part of His family.

"You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother's body. How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."

Psalm 139:13-14 NIrV


I AM
LOVED

JESUS LOVES ME.

Jesus' perfect life, death, resurrection, and promised return are God's love story. Jesus came to fulfill God's promises to His children. Through Jesus, I have salvation.

Jesus loves me no matter what. His love for me has no beginning and no end, and I get to love Him back. Jesus is God's love in person. God's love is big and generous, and it is for me! Jesus is the way to God's love. Choosing to follow Jesus means choosing God's love and God's way.

I am LOVED by Jesus, and

I get to share His LOVE too.

"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."

John 13:34, 35 NIrV


I AM
LED

THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS ME.

God gives me the gift of His Holy Spirit when I choose to live for Jesus. The Holy Spirit invites me to live in God's Kingdom—now and not yet.

When I accept Jesus as my Savior, I receive the Holy Spirit as a gift, and He lives inside me. When I let the Holy Spirit lead, He strengthens me, and I grow in belief. As I learn that God's way is the best way, my faith grows too. The Holy Spirit helps me be more like Jesus—the me I was made to be.

Because I am LED by the Holy Spirit, I can FOLLOW Him.

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship."

Romans 8:14, 15a NIrV


I AM
A CHILD
OF GOD

I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

God's amazing story changes my own.

Because God knows me, Jesus loves me, and the Holy Spirit leads me, I get to be a wonder-filled reflection of God to the world. I get to know who I truly am and who I was made to be.

The Bible tells me that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, knit together by a loving God who knows all about me and loves every inch of me. He delights in me, and I will celebrate His wonder!

I am a WONDER. I get to BE part of God's story, and my life TELLS of God's wonder.

"But God chose you to be his people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are God's special treasure. You are all these things so that you can give him praise. God brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:9 NIrV


HOW WE
CAN HELP
KIDS KNOW
TRUTH

THE IMPORTANCE OF THEOLOGICAL GUIDEPOSTS

When we share Scripture and talk about faith with children, we want to introduce them to Jesus so that they might believe in Him. So how we share Scripture and talk about God is important.

How we speak can effect how children see Scripture and how they view God in light of their community and personhood. Yes, they need to understand what sin leads to (in age appropriate ways) so they understand their need for grace. We hide God's Word in our hearts so that we might not sin against Him!

But it's important for children to know that Jesus conquered death so they can live in freedom. They can have life through faith in Jesus as they follow God's Word!

It's so important that we are consistent in how we teach children and how we talk about faith. The path for a child's faith shouldn't be hindered by different agendas, preferences, or ideas. That's why theological guideposts are important.

Here, we share our top theological guideposts for sharing God's Word with children.

Imagine the church rallying together, so that no matter where our children go in the church, they are seeing the same truths being modeled before them.

IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL GUIDEPOSTS

GOD'S BIG STORY

God's Big Story of redemption should be celebrated in each lesson. Every piece of Scripture should be tied to the whole—nothing should stand alone.

THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

The hope of the gospel should frame every story. God extends to us a redemptive invitation of salvation through grace in Jesus, 'inked' on the very core of our beings.

THE PEOPLE OF SCRIPTURE

The people of Scripture are not characters or superheroes—they are real people, and we should talk about them as such. People who make mistakes. People who choose to sin and are in need of grace. People who have big dreams. People who are curious. People who believe with their whole hearts. People like you and me.





BIBLICAL LANGUAGE

Biblical language should be introduced and explained in the context of Scripture, adding nothing to it and taking nothing away.

OUR IDENTITY

Our identity is rooted in the same way our faith is: in being confident of what we hope for in Jesus. We become who we were created to be through claiming our inheritance as an image-bearing child of God. The more we look like Jesus, the more we grow in godly character, shaped by the Holy Spirit.

MAKE SPACE FOR WORSHIP RESPONSE

It's important that we make space within our ministries and homes for children to respond to God—whether through song, writing, drawing, creating, painting, praying, or something else!

With God moving, and our children free to express their response, they can personally know the God who knows them, loves them, and leads them.

CONCLUSION

As we share God's truth with kids, we can teach them to speak it for themselves through declarations, affirmations, blessings, conversations, Scripture memorization, and more.

And there are tools to help! Curriculums like Wonder Ink, by David C Cook, support both the truths spoken and theological guideposts mentioned in this guide.

But no matter the tools you use, it's ever-important that we affirm kids in who they were created to be as loved children of God. And in our teaching and leading, we need consistency and Biblical truth.

Be encouraged, friends! It is through the Holy Spirit that we are able to do the work we've been called to do. Rest and rely on Him today and every day to lead you in life and in ministry

May the Lord be with you as you go and tell children about all He is and all He has to offer them. May you know who and whose you are as you wake each day—until you lay your head down at night. May His presence go before you, walk beside you, and follow-up behind you. May His angels be about your life and may God's light shine through you as you anchor yourself to Him. And may your life speak of His wonder so boldly that all who encounter you see Him.

Wonder Ink

Children's Ministry Curriculum

Rooted in the Wonder of the Gospel

Empower kids to understand the fullness of who they are in God's Big Story as they discover 4 core truths:

- God Knows Me
- Jesus Loves Me
- The Holy Spirit Leads Me
- I am a Child of God

With curriculum for Early Childhood and Elementary students, Wonder Ink helps you inspire children on their journey of faith—all while having fun! Plus, this digital resource gives you the tools to partner with families and support your volunteers in ministry.

Try 4 Weeks FREE at WonderInk.org!

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And join our 'Wonderfilled: Wonder Ink User Community' on Facebook!





Wonder Ink®

By David C Cook