

“Who Am I?” Bible Connections

We’ve seen that it’s important to begin to explore who we are early so we don’t end up like Nora—deep into adult responsibilities without ever having considered the question. As God-followers, knowing who God says we are is an important part of the answer to this question. If you’re not a God-follower, or if you’re not sure, it’s still an angle to consider—many wise people over the centuries have found it a rock on which to build. What does the Bible say? Why? What does that mean for you? And to what extent do you agree or disagree? Why? Here are a couple of guiding principles to explore:

- Every individual has worth (Gen. 1.27, Psa. 139, Matt. 10.31, Luke 12.7, Rom. 12.3-9).
- Secure in her worth in God’s eyes, the Christian follows Jesus’ example of service, humility, submission (John 13.1-5, I Cor. 10.24, 12.12-26; Mark 10.42-45; Phil. 2.1-11; Eph. 5.21).

Each group member choose 2 different passages from the list of 10 above and do the following

1. Quote/summarize/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question “Who Am I?”
4. How does this passage connect to anything you’ve read/thought about this unit?
5. How does this passage connect to your life?

Example: Mrs. Essenburg

John 13:1-5

1. **Quote/summary/paraphrase:** This is at the last Passover supper Jesus has with his disciples, right before he is crucified, when he washes their feet before the meal.
2. **Meaning in context:** who said/wrote it, to whom, why: Jesus teaches his disciples about love and leadership (“he now showed them the full extent of his love”) by doing the lowest slave’s job. How could he do this? Because he knew who he was (the Son of God with almighty power), he did not have to insist on everyone else acknowledging it. He could let it pass and submit to the unthinkable because of love. This is what verse 3-4 says: “Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.”
3. **How does this passage connect to the question “Who am I?”:** In the tension between knowing our worth as created images of God and loved children of God on the one hand, and the call to humility and service on the other hand, this seems to be the key. If I know who I am in God’s sight, I am free to not need to insist on being properly respected and loved and served, but to be sure those around me are properly respected and loved and served. This connects to everything in current leadership buzz (as well as ancient Christian teaching) about “servant leadership.”
4. **How does this passage connect to anything you’ve read/thought about this unit?** So while I do think each person has a right to become an individual, as Ibsen said, and ideally Nora’s whole personality and potential should have been valued and

developed by her society, her father, and her husband, I also think God could empower a person in her situation to follow another option: to know her identity in God, and be free to love her husband and children. Kristine Linde's understanding was closer to the truth: life is empty without anyone to live for, anyone who needs you.

5. **How does this passage connect to your life?** I heard a female PE teacher from another school, several years ago now, talk about women's self esteem. She said there was a girl who would walk into the locker room every day, look at herself in the mirror, and say, "You're stupid. I hate you." So this woman encourages other women to look at themselves in the mirror and say, "I deeply love you and completely accept you." Sounds great. But what about the days when I know I haven't been either lovable or acceptable? So I started writing at the top of my journal every morning, "God deeply loves me and completely accepts me." Slowly, over the years, the truth of that has begun to work from my head down into my heart, and I have become less worried about how people think of me and more able to love from a position of knowing I am deeply and unconditionally and unalterably and eternally loved.

Group member 1: _____

Passage 1: _____

1. Quote/summary/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question "Who Am I?"
4. How does this passage connect to anything you've read/thought about this unit?
5. How does this passage connect to your life?

Passage 2: _____

1. Quote/summary/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question "Who Am I?"
4. How does this passage connect to anything you've read/thought about this unit?
5. How does this passage connect to your life?

Group member 2: _____

Passage 1: _____

1. Quote/summary/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question "Who Am I?"
4. How does this passage connect to anything you've read/thought about this unit?
5. How does this passage connect to your life?

Passage 2: _____

1. Quote/summary/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question "Who Am I?"
4. How does this passage connect to anything you've read/thought about this unit?
5. How does this passage connect to your life?

Group member 3: _____

Passage 1: _____

1. Quote/summary/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question "Who Am I?"
4. How does this passage connect to anything you've read/thought about this unit?
5. How does this passage connect to your life?

Passage 2: _____

1. Quote/summary/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question "Who Am I?"
4. How does this passage connect to anything you've read/thought about this unit?
5. How does this passage connect to your life?

Group member 4: _____

Passage 1: _____

1. Quote/summary/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question "Who Am I?"
4. How does this passage connect to anything you've read/thought about this unit?
5. How does this passage connect to your life?

Passage 2: _____

1. Quote/summary/paraphrase.
2. Meaning in context: who said/wrote it, to whom, why?
3. How does this passage connect to the question "Who Am I?"
4. How does this passage connect to anything you've read/thought about this unit?
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