

Family Discipleship Guide

Romans 1:1-7 | Set Apart for the Gospel

Big Idea: Our identity is not found in what we do, what others think of us, or what we achieve. Our identity is found in **whose** we are. We belong to Jesus and are set apart for His purposes.

1. Family Connection

Ask everyone:

"If you could be known for one thing, what would it be?"

Examples:

- Kindness
- Athletic ability
- Being funny
- Intelligence
- Helping others

After everyone shares, ask:

"What happens if that thing is taken away or if people stop noticing it?"

Say:

"Today we're going to learn that Christians don't build their identity on achievements or popularity. God gives us an identity that cannot be taken away."

2. Read God's Word

Read *Romans 1:1-7* together.

For younger children, have them listen for:

- Who Paul belongs to
- Who the letter is about
- What God calls believers

After reading ask:

- Who does Paul say he belongs to?
- Who is the gospel about?
- What does God call the believers in Rome?
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3. Discover the Truth

A. Paul's Identity Was Found in Jesus

Romans 1:1 says:

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus..."

Before Paul followed Jesus, he was known as a persecutor of Christians. But after meeting Jesus, his identity changed.

Paul could have introduced himself as:

- A scholar
- A Roman citizen
- A religious leader

Instead he says:

"I am Christ's servant."

Family Discussion

Ask:

- What labels do people use to describe themselves today?
- What labels do kids often use?
- What labels do adults often use?

Examples:

- Athlete
- Parent
- Student
- Successful
- Popular

While those things aren't wrong, they should never become our true identity.

Our greatest identity is that we belong to Jesus.

B. Jesus Is the Center of the Gospel

Romans 1:3-4 says that Jesus is:

- Fully man, descended from David.
- Fully God, declared God's Son through the resurrection.

Christianity is not primarily about rules.

Christianity is about a person:

Jesus Christ.

The resurrection proves:

- Jesus is who He claimed to be.
- Our sins can be forgiven.
- Death does not have the final word.

Ask:

"Why is the resurrection so important to Christians?"

Help your family see:

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then we can trust everything He said."

C. We Are Called to Belong to Jesus

Romans 1:6 says:

"called to belong to Jesus Christ."

Explain:

Think about a favorite sports jersey.

When a player wears the team jersey, everyone knows which team they belong to.

Christians belong to Jesus.

This means:

- We are loved by Him.
- We are protected by Him.
- We represent Him.

Our worth comes from Him, not from what we accomplish.

4. Family Discussion Questions

For Younger Children:

- Who does Paul belong to?
- Who is Jesus?
- What does it mean to belong to Jesus?
- How do you know Jesus loves you?

For Teens;

- Where do people your age look for identity?
- What pressures do you feel to prove yourself?
- How does belonging to Jesus change the way we see ourselves?
- Why do you think people-pleasing can become exhausting?

For the Whole Family:

- What stood out most from *Romans 1:1-7*?
- How can we remind ourselves that our identity comes from Christ?
- What would change in our family if we truly believed we are loved by God and called by God?

5. Family Application Challenge

The Master's Seal Object Lesson

Hold up an item everyone recognizes: a Bible, mug, shirt, or toy.

Ask:

"What makes this special?"

Then explain:

A regular, cheap guitar is worth very little BUT if a famous musician signs it, its value of this cheap guitar changes because of the status of who signed it.

In the same way, believers belong to Jesus.

- We do not gain value because of our performance.
- We have value because we belong to Him.

This Week's Family Challenge

Every morning this week, say together:

"I belong to Jesus. I am loved by God. I am set apart for His purposes."

Encourage each family member to think of one way they can represent Jesus that day through kindness, honesty, service, or encouragement.

6. Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that our identity is not found in what we do, what we own, or what others think about us. Thank You that through Jesus we are loved, called, and set apart for Your purposes.

Help us remember that we belong to You. Give us courage to live for Your name instead of seeking the approval of others. Thank You for sending Jesus, who died for our sins and rose again so that we could have hope and new life.

Help our family reflect Your love this week.

In Jesus name,

Amen.