



DATE(S)

May 14-15, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

The Real Me – Week 1

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God made you to be the  
REAL you!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 8:14-17  
Ephesians 2:10

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

# OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

## LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

## OPENING SMALL GROUP

### QUESTIONS

### ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What would people say is the best quality of your personality?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



# LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

## THE MESSAGE

**"The Real Me" – Week 1 (Real Person)**

**May 14-15, 2022**

**(Teacher's Note: Start message by looking into a small mirror & holding a dry erase marker)**

Sometimes, the most intimidating thing you can look at is your reflection in a mirror. Yet, we probably look into one of these almost every day at some point. As people, we can be very concerned with our outward appearance. We have to look the right way...the cool way. We have to wear the right clothes, the right makeup, have the right smile, or try to figure out a way to hide the features of our face/body we don't like. Some of us look in this mirror and just don't care what we look like. We're fine with how we look. We're comfortable in our own skin. Others of us...not so much.

Maybe it's not always about the physical appearance. What type of person are you? Does it change based on who you are around? At school? At home? On the field? At church? Maybe you struggle with not feeling good enough, smart enough, pretty enough, athletic enough. Honestly, I'm sure we all feel that way at some point.

**The question a mirror asks us is this: WHO IS THE REAL ME?**

We are starting a brand new series today with that title: "The Real Me." That's a difficult question for you guys to answer. You're still trying to figure that out...trying to figure out who you really are...and that's ok! However, it's easy to change who you are based on who you're around. It's easy to be a poser or a fake. Some people may not care, but honestly, do you REALLY want to be that way?

**(Leaders Note: Share a story about a time where you felt "fake" or "two-faced" in your life/faith. It can be a recent story or something from when you were younger.)**

Here is my main encouragement to you today: God made YOU to be YOU! He doesn't want you to be somebody else. Now...does He want us to change certain areas of our lives or make different decisions so we can be more like Jesus? Of course! That will be a tension point for us at times – we want to be "the real me," but we really need the grace of God and to follow Jesus so we can know who we REALLY are. Nevertheless, God wants us to be REAL and not FAKE.

**Here's our THP (Take Home Point) for today – God made YOU to be the REAL YOU!**

# THE MESSAGE

I heard a quote once from author John Powell that said, "I am afraid to tell you who I really am, for if I tell you who I really am, you may not accept me and that is the only ME I have." Have you thought that before – what if people don't accept the real me? Some of us think, "I'll just change who I am, what I like, how I dress, what words I say or don't say, what I believe...I'll do anything as long as it means that people will like me or approve of me." Let me ask this: is that the real you? Do you have multiple versions of yourself based on who you're around?

We live in a "me" culture. We live in a world now where the most popular picture taken is the "selfie." We look in a mirror and we want to make ourselves look a certain way. We just want to be accepted. We want to get the most "likes" or views. In fact, there are some people who delete pictures if they aren't "liked" enough. Even the "fake" version of ourselves is sometimes not enough.

Some of us are afraid to admit that we're struggling with something, or that we have a problem, or that we're angry or sad. People say, "What's up?" to us in the hallway and we just say "Not much" or "I'm fine." Deep down, that couldn't be further from the truth. What if "the real me" isn't enough?

**The best news that Christianity has to offer is that you are ALREADY ACCEPTED! God – the God who created you – He loves you. You don't have to create another version of yourself for others. God wants YOU TO BE YOU!!**

As I said earlier, that doesn't mean God approves of everything we do, every decision we make, etc. – but He does love us. Because He loves us, He will challenge us, oftentimes, to let go of or even do the opposite of how we feel or what we feel is right. However, that's still out of love.

*Check out what Paul says in the New Testament in Romans 8:14-17 – "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. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."*

You are a child of God! Think about that. Some of you in here might be adopted, but did you know that ALL of us have been adopted as God's children? That word "Abba" literally means "Dad." God is our Dad. It says we are "heirs" which means we inherit all the good things that God gave Jesus. It also means we might share in Jesus's sufferings – rejection, hurt, betrayal, hatred – but Scripture teaches us that Jesus is coming back and all of those things will be over!

# THE MESSAGE

Listen...so many of us are living FOR approval and what we fail to realize is that we need to live FROM approval: God's approval! If you live for the approval of others, you'll die by their rejection. Have you ever felt rejected? It's no fun, is it? God knows exactly what that's like: Jesus was rejected even until his death. That verse says we "share in his sufferings": we will go through many of the same problems that Jesus did. He was rejected, he was made fun of, he lost friends (one of his best friends betrayed him!), he disappointed people who wanted him to be someone else and offended those who wished he were different.

That's no different than you and me. However, Jesus was true to how God made him. That's what God wants for us! He wants us to be comfortable in our own skin. He wants us to live knowing that He loves us and accepts us even if the world will not...and that includes the good AND the bad about us. Check this out...

**(Teacher's Note: Show "Speed Painter" message clip)**

Ephesians 2:10 says, *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."* Just like that video: people were making fun of all those weird shapes, blobs, smudges. It turned out to be a beautiful painting. The beautiful and the ugly, the clear parts and the smudges...it was still a real painting.

Let's start believing and living out our **THP – God made YOU to be the REAL YOU**. We won't know who we really are until we start giving our lives over to God. There is no one more trustworthy. Let's pray.



# CLOSING GROUP TIME

## CLOSING SMALL GROUP

### QUESTIONS

\*\*\*Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

Today, we talked about what it means to be real and not to be "fake" or "two-faced" in the way we live our lives. Why do you think it's easy for us to put up a front for people or live a two-faced life? Do you see this in your own life? How?

After the "Speed Painter" video we watched (by the way, how cool was that?!), we heard a verse about how we are "God's masterpiece." Let's re-read that passage again: Ephesians 2:10 in the New Testament. Use the **SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)** method to discuss the verse in your groups.

SCRIPTURE – Have someone read the Scripture out loud two times.

Ephesians 2:10 – *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."*

OBSERVATION – Write down words or phrases that stick out to you, that you don't understand, or that are interesting to you. Questions are also great!

APPLICATION – Think about and write down how the Scripture applies to your actual life and how you can live differently because of it this week.

PRAYER – Pray together at the end of your group discussion! Ask God to help you remember and apply what you learned from the Bible today!

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

### ACTIVITIES

Make sure you end closing group discussion early so you can walk over to the main auditorium and watch the baptism service!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!



# PREP NEEDS

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## SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion  
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

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## LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week  
Message script  
Message slides

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## AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

