



UN loved  
UN wanted

## WEEK 1 DEVOTIONAL

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### RECEIVE

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Take a few moments to receive the following Scriptures, **1 John 4:4–6** and **1 Peter 2:9–10**, in two ways. First read them and then after reading, use your favorite Bible app to listen to them being read to you. As you read and listen to these Scriptures, journal words or phrases that stand out to you and share with God, through journaling, why those words and phrases caught your attention.

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### REFLECT

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1. When you read in our key passage from 1 John that “You belong to God.” What does that mean to you? Really can you see how that can shape your life in the positive? Give you strength and hope? Journal a few thoughts that stir in you from this.
2. John reminds us pretty strongly that the “Spirit who lives in us is greater than the spirit that lives in the world.” Do you believe that? When do you doubt that? What do you think would be the effect of beginning each day reminding yourself of that truth? Not a rhetorical question, take a few moments to journal a few responses to help these formational points shape your life.

3. We all live with narratives, stories we tell ourselves about our life. When you imagine God looking at you how would God describe you to others? Can you hear God calling you, “My chosen special possession?” as we hear in 1 Peter 2?
4. What would it take for you to think of yourself as God’s chosen special possession – God Friend as Jesus calls us?

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## RESPOND

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5. What are your first thoughts in the morning, what do you tell yourself about your day? As you reflect on a typical day do you sense a pattern of fear or optimism? Joy or sadness? Vulnerability with God or hiding from God?
6. Journal the effect of how you believe God views you shapes your day. Do you live out of security and belonging as a “dear child chosen”? Or fear and hiding, hoping to not be discovered? If so how could that change?
7. Knowing that God already knows EVERYTHING about you and still loves you and says of you, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” How can that shape your life?

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## RESOURCES

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In light of today’s devotional focus on who we belong to and as a result who we are, close this time of prayer and being with Jesus by reflecting on this poem by Natasha Rodriguez. Natasha serves with Young Life at Riverside-Brookfield High School and is a student in Pastor Eric Haskins’ class on Spiritual Formation, at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights.

## Who Am I Because of God

Who am I?

I am a daughter

I am a fiancé

I am a niece

I am a granddaughter

But most importantly I am a follower of God

Follower of a creator

Light, water, earth, vegetation, and creatures

Let there be and there was

A creator, 7 days of creating

Paradise

I am a descendent of his first creation, Adam and Eve

His creation that He at first took pride in

He took pride in creating me,

by giving me the ability to make my own decisions

He gave this ability to all of His creation

Sin, Serpent, Fruit

I am a sinner, like my descendants,

they created a pathway of sin for us all

But, I am loved by God, not forced into a relationship but so loved

But more sin

Anger, Jealousy, Death

“Where is your Brother Abel?”<sup>1</sup>

“I don’t know” Cain replied<sup>2</sup>

A loving but stern God, casting out the sinners

but yet not killing them? Why?

Because, LOVE

“But the greatest of these are love”<sup>3</sup>

With love comes sin, but the goodness of creation

Faith through creation

I was created in the image of God

I am sinful yet He is not

“God is not the author of, nor can be charged with,  
the sin that occurs”<sup>4</sup>

Redemption because of creation  
Creation of a baby who's only purpose is to die  
Die for YOU and ME

Thinking of You and Me while dying because of love  
A love I take for granted  
A love I often forget about  
A love I focus else where  
An overpowering love  
A love that allows those who believe  
to spend eternity with their creator

A creator who created a Heaven so that we can be one with Him

Creating a new Heaven and a new Earth  
No more pain  
No more Sadness  
No more Death  
Just love  
A love no one deserves  
But,  
You are loved  
I am loved  
You are worth it  
I am worth it  
This is who I am because of God

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<sup>1</sup>Genesis 4:9

<sup>2</sup>Genesis 4:9

<sup>3</sup>1 Corinthians 13:13

<sup>4</sup>What Stands on the Fall?

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## SCRIPTURE

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### **1 John 4:4–6** | New International Version

<sup>4</sup> You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit[a] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

### **1 Peter 2:9–10** | New International Version

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy