



Southwest Indian Ministries Camps

Teen Devotional

Receive a \$5 off camp fee coupon by completing the questions and returning them to
SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave | Peoria, AZ 85381

November 2022 – God’s People

Answer the questions and return to SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave. | Peoria, AZ 85381. Please print legibly.

First and Last Name: _____

Age: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Text Number: _____

Has there even been a party you wanted to be invited to, but you weren’t?

How did it make you feel?

When people are trying to explain who you are to someone else, what do they say? “He’s in the orchestra.” “She’s a Patriots fan.” “He hangs out with the smart kids.” “She’s in the theater club.” “He always talks about video games.” “She always talks about reality TV shows.” Perhaps you feel that the way people describe you isn’t accurate. In that case, how would you like to be known? Who would you like to be associated with?

Here’s the deal: regardless of the words that others use to describe you, if Jesus has saved you, you are one of God’s people. When you become one of God’s people, you join a family tree that reaches all the way back to Adam and Eve. God has always been choosing people to join his ever-growing family. He first made Adam and Eve, and they walked in the garden together. He told Noah to build an ark so he could save his family from a devastating flood. He spoke to Abraham and told him that his descendants would become God’s chosen nation. That family grew into the nation of Israel, the Jewish people. In the New Testament, God used people like Paul and Peter to reach non-Jewish people (called Gentiles) with the Gospel. God’s Kingdom started with one man, then one family, then one nation, and is now available to everyone, including you!

To be one of God’s people is the greatest identity and association you could ever have. The Creator and Sustainer of the universe, oceans, and human cells; the source of all that exists; and the origin of love calls you one of his. That’s amazing!



Exodus 6:6–8

“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.’”

Romans 9:23–26

What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— ²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵ As he says in Hosea:

“I will call them ‘my people’ who are not my people;
and I will call her ‘my loved one’ who is not my loved one,”

²⁶ and,

“In the very place where it was said to them,
‘You are not my people,’
there they will be called ‘children of the living God.’”

During the Second Sudanese Civil War, six-year-old Lopez Lomong was kidnapped in the middle of a church service. At that moment, he became one of “The Lost Boys of Sudan,” a group of 40,000 boys who were abducted or displaced by the war. With the help of a village near his prison camp, he escaped and ran for his life. He didn’t stop running until he reached the Kenyan border 72 hours later. Lopez was now a homeless refugee: “I felt lost without a country. I never identified with any flag; instead, I was an outcast from a country at war.”

That changed when an American named Michael Johnson won the 400-meter race at the Olympics. During the televised gold-medal ceremony, the world watched tears stream down Johnson’s face as the national anthem played. Lopez, now a distance runner himself, was shaken by the sight. “I realized that he didn’t run for himself or his own glory, but rather represented a country that he was proud of.”²

Inspired by Johnson, Lopez moved to the United States and kept running. A year after earning citizenship,

he qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team and was chosen to carry the American flag in the Opening Ceremony. He wasn’t chosen just because he was a great athlete but because he represented the hope, belonging, and pride that America wanted the world to see. “Now I’m not just one of the ‘Lost Boys.’ I’m an American.”

Just like Lopez was chosen to represent the United States, we are chosen by God to display his love to the world. But there’s one critical difference: we didn’t earn our spot in God’s family. Jesus earned it for us.



Questions:

- Like Lopez, when have you felt like you didn’t belong?

- Name a team, club, or group you were proud to be a part of or compete for. Why?
- How is being one of God's people similar or different to being a part of that team, club, or group?
- In what ways can we, as God's people, display his love to the world?
- Where can you go where you know, without a doubt, that you belong?

THE BIBLE IN YOUR LIFE

God promised to gather people who would belong to his family. He started out with a small family—Abraham and his descendants—that grew into the nation of Israel. Through Jesus, God issued an invitation to the entire world. Now we can all belong to and be known as God's people.

Read Exodus 6:6–8 and Romans 9:23–26, then answer the following questions.

Questions:

- How are you known?
- How do you view yourself?
- What do these two passages say it means to be one of God's people?
- What responsibilities come with being chosen to be one of God's people?

APPLY IT

Think of someone in your life who needs to know they belong somewhere. They could be an outcast in your school or youth group or just someone that you know needs to hear that God wants them to be one of his people. Begin to pray for them and make a plan to give them a place of belonging with you and your Christian friends.

“But you are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
a people for his own possession, that
you may proclaim the excellencies of
him who called you out of darkness
into his marvelous light.”

1 PETER 2:9 (ESV)

TOGETHER **ENCOUNTERS**
HOW GOD'S WORD CONNECTS WITH OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

Disciples of Christ know
they are chosen by God
to display his glory.

**Marks
Of A
Disciple**

THE TAKEAWAY

As God’s chosen people, we belong to his family and share him with the world.

The Family of God

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28 (NLT)
Based on Galatians 3:26-29



P	J	B	H	H	V	O	E	Y	Z	L	A	D	E	K
I	E	A	E	S	G	E	R	F	O	D	G	H	E	B
J	S	P	I	K	S	C	L	O	T	H	E	D	V	B
T	U	T	R	W	I	C	F	T	V	F	B	Y	O	N
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U	E	J	E	R	N	O	N	P	A	L	N	A	H	A
Y	A	B	D	K	E	S	L	M	J	X	L	F	X	J
A	U	R	U	Q	N	E	U	L	W	S	L	M	L	Y

HEIRS	CLOTHED	FEMALE	JESUS	FREE
SLAVE	SONS	MALE	JEW	PROMISE
ONE	FAITH	BAPTIZED	GREEK	CHRIST