

# Power traits of a Jesus Follower

## -Kids and Family

### Day 1 of 5 • This day's reading

- Ephesians 5:1-2

Devotional

Introduction

**How to use this plan** | The Parent prep section will give you context as you prepare to engage your child. The Read together section is meant to be read with your child.

**Parent prep** | Following Jesus means we adopt His ways and start practicing the things Jesus did. Sometimes His ways can be difficult to communicate to kids because they think in very tangible ways. They learn through their senses. “Can I see it? Can I touch it? Can I smell it? Can I hear it? Can I taste it?” God says Jesus’ sacrifice for us is a good smell. Bring that idea to life by bringing a good smell to your time together. It could be something baked, a sweet-smelling candle or diffuser, cologne or something else.

**Read together** | What’s your favorite smell? What’s the stinkiest thing you’ve ever smelled? When we smell a good smell, we want to get closer to it. When we smell a stinky smell, we tend to want to move away.

Have you ever had someone copycat you? It's a game that makes people want to move away. Copy cat is usually a way people annoy people. Like this:

"I'm not. You are."

"I'm not. You are."

"No way."

"No way."

"Cut it out!"

"Cut it out!"

See? It is usually very annoying... unless you're copying the right person. God says the ways Jesus was willing to give Himself for us is a good smell to God, so when we copy the habits and the ways of Jesus, it's not annoying, like a copycat. In fact, Jesus was completely perfect. So, when we copycat Jesus, that smells good to God, too. It's a life that's filled with love. It's a life that follows Jesus' example.

When we trust Jesus, we are automatically given traits that look like Him. A trait is something about you that makes you YOU. In

this series, we'll look at these traits that look like Jesus: identity, faith, integrity and compassion. Like a character in your favorite video game, you might start out with a lot of one trait and a little of another. That's okay. We just want you to start paying attention to these power traits. As you walk through life, the Holy Spirit can grow in them as you copy Jesus more and more! And that kind of life smells so good to God

## Day 2 of 5 • This day's reading

- Psalms 139:13-16

### Devotional

#### Identity

**Parent prep** | Take a minute, as you begin, to celebrate how God made your child in secret before you ever met him/her. As you sit down with your child,, be prepared to point out your favorite traits in him/her. Give God the credit for making him/her that way. If you're comfortable, share some thoughts you had while you waited and your child grew in secret. If your child came to your family through a different way, share the anticipation of getting to know who God made this child to be.

**Read together** | Have you ever made something and waited in anticipation to see how it would turn out? I, Dana, get teased a lot about trying new recipes on my family and friends because I don't know if it's going to be any good. I just experiment on them. We just have to wait and see! When you tie dye something, you wrap the fabric up tightly and dunk it in the color. You can't really know exactly how it will look until it comes out of the dye and the bands and you hang it up to dry. When God made you, people wondered what you would be like. They couldn't see your body forming. They probably thought about who's nose you'd get and what kind of person you'd become. But God always knew! God didn't have

to wait and see what you'd look like or who you'd become. You were made just the way God planned!

What makes you who you are on the inside and outside is called your identity. All of it was designed by God. Let's ask God to show us how we are each made special and so very loved.

## Day 3 of 5 • This day's reading

- Galatians 3:26
- James 2:18

Devotional

Faith

**Parent prep** | We are going to talk about two kinds of faith: a faith that saves, making you God's child, and a faith that shows. Both are important. If you have a story about your faith, tell your child about how you first trusted Jesus. If not, that's okay! Be honest about exploring what it means to have faith in Him.

**Read together** | In the Williams' family, our children had many babysitters when they were young. When mom and dad went out, sometimes our kids would cheer and other times they'd groan depending on who came to watch them. Either way, for a little while, they were in someone else's care. Paul writes a letter to God's people and tells them that God sent the Law as a babysitter for them until they were mature. The law was filled all kinds of rules to follow. I know a lot of kids and most kids don't like rules; most kids wish they were grown up so they don't have to follow rules they don't like. But Paul also told God's people that they didn't need the law to babysit them anymore. How can that be? Jesus came and gave His life for them. When they trusted or had faith, they were considered mature and didn't need a babysitter

anymore. When you have faith in Jesus, you are called God's child... a grown up child who is trusted! You probably still need a babysitter when mom and dad go out, but in God's family, you are a grown up son or daughter.

After you've put your faith in Jesus, you start to grow in a different kind of faith. It's a faith that shows that you are God's child and you start to behave like one. You try do the right thing. You start to care about what God says, even when you're not at church. You start acting like a grown up kid in God's family.

Which kind of faith is God inviting you to today-the kind of faith in Jesus that makes you God's son or daughter or the kind of faith step that shows you are God's trusted son or daughter?

## Day 4 of 5 • This day's reading

- Hebrews 13:18

Devotional

Integrity

**Parent prep** | Try to remember a time when you were disobedient, mischievous or guilty as a child. Be ready to share this story with your child because it is helpful to both you and your child when you make it personal.

**Read together** | Have you ever watched a cartoon where the character is trying to make a decision and they feel pulled between a right and wrong choice? Sometimes the artist draws an angel on one shoulder and a devil on the other who try to turn them to do the right thing or the wrong thing.

Have you ever felt like your mind was pulling you between a right or wrong choice? I bet you have! Dana remembers, “Once, my dad told me not to play with the kitten in our garage, but it was so cute and so fluffy and I liked him so much. I played with the kitten. I walked inside and my dad looked down at me. “Did you play with the kitten?” If I told the truth, he’d be disappointed. So I lied. I said I didn’t, but the cat hair all over my clothes told the truth. My choices to disobey and to lie made a mess of things with my dad.”



Tell each other about a time you had to choose. What did you choose?

Let's talk about a word you might know: integrity. Integrity means being whole, undivided; honest or making right choices. When it came to our kitten, integrity would have been obeying my dad or telling him the truth.

The person who wrote Hebrews wrote to tell God's people how all their adventures with God pointed to Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, He did it to make our lives whole. The writer asked the people to pray for them that they would have a clear conscience. A clear conscience means they were sure that they were making right choices. They also prayed that they'd live with honor. Because Jesus made us whole, we now have His power to choose to listen to the pull toward right choices. Let's pray that we'll both follow God's pull toward integrity

## Day 5 of 5 • This day's reading

- Ephesians 4:32

### Devotional

#### Compassion

**Parent prep** | Within the idea of compassion is a sense that a person is “*involved with*”. Compassion isn’t pity from a distance. It’s up close and involved. God comes near to us in our suffering. God is the source of true compassion. Think of a time when you received compassion from another person.

**Read together** | Dana remembers, “In Kindergarten I joined the Brownies Troop. I can’t remember much about it, but one Brownie meeting left an impression. We were working on earning a First Aid badge. Our leaders brought in first aid supplies, like bandages, tape and gauze. They asked for a volunteer to have their hand bandaged. They must have picked me, but all I can remember is being terrified and crying loudly outside in the hallway.

Nothing happened. I was certain that they would have to break my hand first to demonstrate. It’s silly to me now, but I didn’t know better then.

Everyone was so kind to me. They sat with me and calmed me down. They tried to explain that no one was going to be hurt. They gently pointed out my friend who was proudly holding up her wrapped hand. They could have made fun of my misunderstanding. They could have called me a cry baby. But they were kind. They were gentle with my feelings. And they were forgiving. Has someone been compassionate to you?"

Our verse today tells us that instead of behaving in hurtful ways, we can show compassion. Compassion is when we come near and help someone who is hurting. Jesus came near to people. He loved people. He healed them. He forgave people. He even gave up His own life for people. You and I are included! Jesus showed us compassion, too. Since He showed us compassion, we can give away compassion to the people around us. We can be kind to one another. We can forgive each other. Who can you share compassion with this week?