

# Who Am I? Whose Am I?

By Gretchen Willis

Women of all ages face a daily assault on their self-image in the media. Fashion magazines cause us to question our body shape. Self-help books and TV gurus tell us to look within ourselves to find peace. Popular movies glamorize sinful lifestyles, and Web-based videos feed our appetites for the latest gossip buzz. The devil has placed countless powerful forces in our paths that attempt to define us apart from what the Word of God reveals about our identity.

Begin by singing “Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing” (LSB #847).

**Opening Prayer:** Oh Wonderful Creator, I am humbled that You made me in the image of Yourself. Continue to shape me every day with Your Word and Your Sacraments. Teach me, Lord, and remind me of Your laws written upon my heart so that I may live a life that is pleasing to You. Help me rejoice that because of Christ’s sacrifice for me upon the cross, I am Your forgiven and beloved daughter. I ask all this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Intro:** *Who Am I?* On a small sheet of paper, describe yourself in two or three sentences. Put all the papers into a bowl. Let each person in the group pick one paper and read it, while the group tries to match the description to the person who wrote it.

**Questions for warm-up:** How do I see myself? How do others see me? How does God see me?

## *I am created by God*

Read **Genesis 1:1–31**. What kinds of things did God create? Read **Deuteronomy 32:4**. What does this say about God?

If we are a creation of God, and God is infallible, what does this say about us?

## *I am a sinner*

Read **John 8:7**. Do you ever compare your sins to those of others? Read **Romans 7:17–20**. What happens when you try to control your sinful nature?

How do you feel about your sins? How does sin change you? How does it change your relationships with others and your relationship with God?

## *I am called to spread the Gospel message*

Read **Matthew 28:19–20**. Whose responsibility is it to spread the Gospel message? Read **1 Thessalonians 3:2**. What desired effect will the Gospel have on those who hear it? Read **Romans 1:16–17**. What is the power found in the Gospel message?



What barriers do you face when carrying out Jesus’ command for us to spread His Word?

## *I am called to serve by following Jesus’ example*

Read **Matthew 20:28**. What kind of servant does Jesus call us to be? Read **Acts 17:25**. What kind of service does God need from us? [A trick question.] Why do we serve Him?

When serving others, how does it make you feel? Do you secretly expect anything in return? What does it mean to “serve wholeheartedly”? (**Ephesians 6:7**)

## *I am weak*

Read **Matthew 26:41** and **Romans 6:19**. What weakness do we all share? How can this weakness be overcome? Read **2 Corinthians 12:9–10**. Why does our personal weakness make us strong through Christ Jesus?

Which do you think is harder: to become stronger or to become weaker? Why?

## *I am forgiven*

Read **Ephesians 2:8–9**. What do we need to do in order to prepare ourselves to receive forgiveness? Read **Romans 3:23–24**. Jesus’ forgiveness is for whom? Read **Psalms 32:5**; **Matthew 26:28**; and **Titus 3:5**. What methods are mentioned in these passages through which our Lord makes His forgiveness available to us?

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly and Merciful Father, we are nothing without You. We claim nothing as our own except our sinfulness. We don’t deserve Your love and mercy, but You give us everything and more. You meet our every need, shelter our every path, reveal to us Your unending wisdom, and provide a place for us in heaven through Your Son, Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit help us to spread the Good News of our Lord and Savior confidently to a world aching to know the identity of the One who is the great I Am. In Your name we pray, Amen.

**Closing Song** – “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace” (LSB #844).

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