

DEVOTIONAL

FOR VOLUNTEERS

DISTINCT

STUDY

"Copy cat culture" is a thing. It starts young when we mimic and steal the speech patterns of those around us. It continues into adolescence when we look to our peers to tell us what's acceptable and worthy of love. And yes, it continues on into adulthood too. If we're not careful with our copy cat tendencies, we'll start to lose the distinct nature, traits, and gifts God has given us. Toning down who we are and how we've been created might be valued in some cultures, but the culture Jesus created would rather highlight our distinctions, because those distinctions are beautiful. Before you help students take a look at their distinct identities, consider yours, because **Jesus is distinct** and **made you distinct** so you could **serve in distinct ways**. As you prepare for this series, **celebrate your distinctions** so you can better help students celebrate theirs. To get ready for this series about identity, **spend a few minutes reading the stories you'll be teaching students this month**. As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) through these passages, and how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

WEEK 1: Jesus is distinct. (John 1:1-18; I Corinthians 8:5-6; Hebrews 13:8)

WEEK 2: God made you distinct. (John 1:19-23; Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 139:13-14)

WEEK 3: We can all serve in distinct ways. (I Corinthians 12:1-11; I Peter 4:10; Proverbs 11:25)

WEEK 4: We can celebrate our distinctions. (I Corinthians 12:12-31; Revelation 7:9-10; Psalm 139:13-14)

PRAY

Have you updated your resume lately? It's a weird sport, isn't it? On our resumes, we're meant to create a highlight reel of all of the things that qualify us to do a job, just like all the other people in our field . . . but we have to do so in a way that makes us appear distinct, with unique contributions only we can make. We're told to "be the same, but different." That might be the message of the company you'd like to work for, but the message of Jesus is that you are distinct. Who you are in Christ changes who you are everywhere else. So before you begin this series, talk to God about who you are and who you're becoming. **Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now?** Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

GROW

Make a list of things that make you distinctly different from everyone else. Then wonder about how those things equip you to serve in distinct ways. Talk to God about how you can serve more in these capacities in the future and then go for it! What's your next step toward living distinctly? **Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help students do the same.**