



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

WWW.GEEKSUNDERGRACE.COM

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales (2017) | IDENTITY | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversations and personal meditation.

PRESS START

In the movie, Captain Salazar reveals the origin of Jack's pirate name, "Sparrow." The identity was given to him because of his actions: flapping his arms and yelling like a bird on a perch. It is not uncommon for pirates to be named after something they do or wear. Right now, if each of us were to assume a pirate name according to what we are doing or do, **what would your pirate name be?**

Option 1: If you can trust that it won't get derogatory and be in good fun, allow people to name each other.

Option 2: Everyone must call each other by their pirate names for the rest of the Bible study; use nametags if helpful.

EQUIP

Question: *While we have all been given a pirate identity, where do we feel our real identity comes from?*

In the movie, we discover that Captain Hector Barbossa had at one point fathered a child (Carina Smyth), and after the mother passed, he left the child at an orphanage. Carina grows up knowing that she has a father and seeks some sort of validation and connection to him. That said, even though she comes face to face with him, she doesn't realize who he is. At times, she even seems put off by him.

It isn't until the end, amidst seeing Barbossa make a great sacrifice for her sake, that she realizes who he really is: her father. When she sees his great sacrifice to save her, all becomes clear. Afterwards, when she is addressed as Smyth, she quickly corrects, "Barbossa." It is here that she assumes her true identity; she isn't just an orphan, but a daughter—a daughter of someone who paid a high price for her to be able to walk in that identity. It's interesting that even though she doesn't truly know her father for long, she is proud to carry her identity as his daughter.

LEVEL UP

One of the greatest challenges of the Christian walk is the question of our identity in Christ. Some look at being a Christian as simply being someone who follows a series of rules and regulations. Out of that thought, there comes doubts about our identity when we struggle and when we fear an unappeasable master. But what does Scripture say about who we are?

Romans 8:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"* ¹⁶ *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"*

This passage answers a few aspects of our question. First off, it assures us that we are not identified as slaves. Some translations say "*spirit of bondage*." This vocabulary suggests that we are not restricted to a point that if we were to accidentally step outside of the boundaries that God has set, we would be immediately struck down with no level of grace or love. Even further, we would not be mindlessly tossed to the side should we find ourselves struggling with God's commands.

On the contrary, we find language saying "*received the Spirit of adoption as sons*" and "*we are children of God*." It is not easy for a father to dismiss his children with no grace or love. Should we see discipline and correction? Yes! Wrath and total dismissal? Never! It is in a father's heart to see his children grow and become something great. The word "Abba" carries a connotation of closeness, as a relationship that has been through the fire, unwavering and forever solidified.

So how does God see us, His children? **Ephesians 2:10** says that we are "*God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus...*" meaning He doesn't see us as something to be easily thrown away. Rather, He loves us as something He treasures greatly. He treasures us so much that He sacrificed much just to save us, like Barbossa did for Carina. Understanding the depths of this should cause us to cling to our true identity: sons and daughters of our Abba Father, the most high God!

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) ²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

When we truly grasp the concept of who we are and walk in that identity, we can accomplish much, as we are enabled to live our faith in a discernible way. It's not that doing things earns us any more love from our Father, but our living in faith should be the result of our growing love for our Father in Heaven.

MOD

Some of us may have struggled at times with walking in our identity with God. **Would anyone be willing to share a time when you struggled to walk in the identity that God gave you?** In addition to that, **what are some practical ways that we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, can help each other not just remember our identity but also walk in that identity?**

PRAY

One of the differences between a slave and a son/daughter is that a child can come to the father any time they want. Soon, we are going to come to our heavenly Father in prayer. We are going to spend an extended time of prayer and worship. As we seek His face, I want to encourage you to lay down your doubts and fears and allow God to bring healing to your life. When we come to a close, we will corporately pray over each other's needs.

THE NEXT LEVEL

John 1:12 (ESV) ¹² But to all who did receive him [Jesus], who believed in his [Jesus] name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Author: Dallas Mora | Editors: Colby Bryant & Casey Covel

These Bible Studies are completely free for you to print and use. They are funded by the gracious donations from people like you. If you are interested in donating please check out WWW.PATREON.COM/GEEKSUNDERGRACE for more information. Your contribution helps us to further our mission to disciple Christians through pop culture and to tell the "geek" world that they deserve Christ just as much as the rest of us. Thank you for your consideration.

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Permanent Text Edition® (2016).
Copyright © 2001 by [Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.](http://CrosswayBibles.com)