

More Than a Name

Module: WHO ARE YOU?

Lesson 3: IDENTITY THEFT

Objectives:

- Students will begin to identify the influences that rob us of our identity

Materials Needed

- ☐ Copies of the lyrics for the song “Complicated” by Avril Lavigne
- ☐ Copies of handout “Identity Theft Threat Assessment”
- ☐ Copies of handout “Identity Theft Self Assessment”

Editor’s Note: The writer of this module has included a lesson about things that steal our identities to provide continuity and help give a complete overview of the notion of Identity. Within this curriculum, you also will find an entire module devoted to this subject written by a different author. While there are some similarities, the module entitled “The 3 D’s of identity Theft” takes this concept much further and explores it in a greater depth. This lesson can be used as a precursor to that unit or may be excluded from your planning.

Minds On

To begin this lesson start by getting everyone in the group to stand in a circle facing inwards. Then pick one person and send them out of the room. Whilst they are out of the room, appoint a 'leader'. This person is the one who (in a minute) will lead the room in various movements (eg stamping feet, spinning, standing on one foot, dancing, singing, etc). Everyone else in the circle must mimic the leader, without giving away who the leader is.

Have the leader begin an action and commence the game, then bring the person back into the room. The aim of the game is for the person who was sent out of the room to guess who the leader is. They get three chances to guess it right. The leader then becomes the 'guesser' and the game continues!

Action

Say something like: *Identity theft is a fast growing crime in our modern society. At the time this lesson was written, there were a reported 1,443 cases of identity theft and fraud costing Canadians a total of \$940,711.29 in the month of February 2011 alone. Just like identities being stolen on-line, the basic premise of this game serves as one example of how our identities, who we believe ourselves to be, can be stolen from us.*

There are many ways our own identities are stolen. Many of the influences that we talked about in our last lesson can also be negative influences. Have your students spend time working through the “Identity Theft Threat Assessment” handout. You can do this in smaller groups or one large group. Give them 10-15 minutes to work through each of the negative influences. Once they are done spend a couple of minutes summarizing their thoughts.

Say something like: *The very things that can be a positive influence on our identities can also be negatives when they are abused. For example, while our families can be a positive in helping us build a strong moral foundation, they can also be a negative if a member of our family abuses us or we are treated poorly.*

Explain to your students that one of the ways our identities are stolen from us happens when we pretend to be someone that we are not. That was the idea behind the game. Too often we want so desperately to fit in that we become someone different. We buy clothes, listen to music, talk and sometimes even walk a specific way simply to fit in. Even though we are probably bored of being told to avoid peer pressure, the reality is that our peers exert an incredible influence over our lives and the way we see ourselves.

Hand out copies of the lyrics to Avril Lavigne's song Complicated. Give your students 5 minutes in groups of 3 or 4 to talk about how this song reflects their lives and the lives of their friends. Bring the groups together and have them share their thoughts.

Conclude this section by having the students spend time on their own considering how they have been influenced by the things we've talked about in this lesson.

***Say something like:** In John 10:10 the Bible says that "the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." We have looked at a number of factors that can cause your identity to be stolen, killed and destroyed. Before we can move on to our next lesson and look at who God created us to be, we need to take stock of where we are at right now. We are going to take time for you to reflect on who you are.*

This exercise is to be done individually. Give your students copies of "Identity Theft Self Assessment" handout. Give them time and space to work through this handout. You may want to have some music playing in the background to help with atmosphere and to help students focus on the task.

This may be a difficult task for some. You will have to pay close attention to how the students are responding to this task and be prepared to either cut time short or give extra time. There may also be the possibility that a student may come face to face with some deep hurts that need to be dealt with. You may want to be prepared to have a separate space and leaders to help them work through their hurts.

Consolidate/Debrief

Say something like: This lesson is a hard lesson to wrap your minds around. There are so many elements that can impact how we see ourselves. If you take nothing else from this lesson at least recognize that there are things that can negatively influence how we see ourselves.

Close your time in prayer.

Complicated By: Avril Lavigne

Uh huh, life's like this
Uh huh, uh huh, that's the way it is
Cause life's like this
Uh huh, uh huh that's the way it is

Chill out , what you yellin' for?
Lay back, it's all been done before
you will see
I like you the way you are
When we're drivin' in your car
and you're talking to me one on one but you've become

Somebody else round everyone else
You're watching your back like you can't relax
You're tryin' to be cool you look like a fool to me
Tell me

Why do you have to go and make things so complicated?
I see the way you're acting like you're somebody else gets me frustrated
Life's like this you
And you fall and you crawl and you break
and you take what you get and you turn it into honesty
and promise me I'm never gonna find you fake it
no no no

You come over unannounced
dressed up like you're somethin' else
where you are ain't where it's at you see
you're making me
laugh out when you strike your pose
take off all your preppy clothes
you know you're not fooling anyone
when you've become

Somebody else round everyone else
Watching your back, like you can't relax
Trying to be cool you look like a fool to me
Tell me

Why do you have to go and make things so complicated?
I see the way you're acting like you're somebody else gets me frustrated
Life's like this you
and You fall and you crawl and you break
and you take what you get and you turn it into
honesty
promise me I'm never gonna find you fake it
no no no

Chill out , what you yellin' for?

Lay back, it's all been done before
And if you could only let it be
You will see

Somebody else round everyone else
You're watching your back, like you can't relax
You're trying to be cool, you look like a fool to me
Tell me

Why do you have to go and make things so complicated?
I see the way you're acting like you're somebody else gets me frustrated
Life's like this you
and you fall and you crawl and you break
and you take what you get and you turn it into
honesty
promise me I'm never gonna find you fake it
no no no

Why do you have to go and make things so complicated?
I see the way you're acting like your somebody else gets me frustrated
Life's like this you
You fall and you crawl and you break
and you take what you get and you turn it into honesty
promise me I'm never gonna find you fake it
no no no

Identity Theft Threat Assessment

Threat to Our Identities	How It Can Steal Identity From Us
Peer Pressure / Social	
Media	
Family	
Religious	

Identity Theft Self Assessment

The answers you will provide are private. You do not need to share them with anyone. However, there are times when it is necessary for us to share the things that have happened in our lives with someone we can trust. That is often the only way we can find healing.

Having spent time as a group considering the ways our identities can be stolen, it is now time for you to consider on your own how your identity may have been stolen from you. Work through each of the influences and honestly evaluate where you are at in regards to how you view yourself. For each influence ask yourself how they have positively or negatively impacted you.

In general, how do you view yourself? Who are you in your own opinion?	
How has your family life shaped you? What specific events have happened that have shaped your opinion of yourself? (ie. Divorce, other siblings, deaths, moving, parent's jobs, poverty, abuse)	
How do your friends impact how you see yourself? Do you dress, talk, walk, or act a certain way because of your friends?	
Think about how the media has impacted you. Have you been trying to be someone you saw on tv or in a movie? How do the songs you listen to impact your behaviour and the way you treat others?	
Do you attend a church on a regular basis? How does that connection impact how you see yourself? If you don't, what role does religion have in your life?	