

Momentum/Friction

Module: S.E.L.F. Assess.ment

Lesson I: Sincerity – How Honest is Your Faith?

Objectives:

- Students will identify what is important in their life.
- Students will explore ways to show their faith in every day situations.

Materials Needed:

- ☐ clip: <http://www.skitguys.com/store/detail/460/> -- The Skit Guys “Identity” (time: 1 minute 35 seconds)
- ☐ LCD projector and computer
- ☐ 4 copies of handout “Galatians”
- ☐ Handout “Optical Illusions” or as projection

Minds On

Have students break up into groups. Depending on the size of your group, have them split up into groups of about 3 or 4. Ask each student to select something from his/her wallet, purse, backpack that is special to or symbolic of him or her. (Leader's note: If students didn't bring a wallet, purse or backpack, ask them to think of what they do have in one of those items that is special to or symbolic of him or her.) In order for the students to understand, have something pre-picked from your wallet that is special to you or symbolic of you, and share it with your students and why it is representative of you. Have students share within their group the item they have chosen and why it is special to them, what the importance is, or the symbolism it provides in their life. Give the students enough time so that each student gets to share in the group. Bring the students back together and ask if anyone would like to share their item with the larger group (there is no pressure to share in the whole group situation).

After students have shared, discuss with them how almost everyone carries their 'essentials' in life in their wallet. Their drivers license, health card, debit cards, credit cards, life insurance cards, money, etc. Continue the conversation by alluding to the special things, such as those items described and suggested by your students. Lead to questioning the group if those things are really the most important things in their lives? (hopeful answer is: no) Probe them to find out what really is of importance in their life. (Possible answers include: friends, family, God, love, food, water, and so many more). Most of these (if not all) cannot fit into a tiny little wallet and must be seen by others in ways that cannot be stored up and put inside a pocket for no body to see.

Action

Say something like: Think about the way you view other people: your family, your friends, your classmates, adults in the church. What do you see and how do you see it? As much as sometimes we wish we could, we can't read people's minds and know what they truly think deep down inside, but USUALLY what is inside is reflected on the outside. So, if we are looking at other

people, and viewing their beliefs based on what they say and how they act, we must ask the question of how are people viewing us, and are we okay with what they are seeing?

Tell the students that we are going to explore what God likes to see and what God dislikes to see in people that claim to be following him.

Have the students break up into 4 different groups, and give each group the hand-out “Galatians”. Give students about 5-10 minutes (you judge how well they are doing) to read their section and fill out the questions that pertain to that section. As you break the students up, have them number themselves off once in a group, and assign each number a task. (ie. person 1 will read the scripture and questions, person 2 will record the answer, person 3 will be the timer, person 4 will be the reporter, person 5 will be the encourager, etc) If able, have a leader assigned to each group, or rotate between groups to monitor their progress and can assist if they need any assistance or guidance in answering the questions.

Bring the group back together and have them read their section, the question, and their answers. Allow for other comments and answers from other groups if time allows.

After all groups have presented their material, ask students a rhetorical question along the lines of: After hearing this, do you feel that you are living a life that exemplifies that Christ is in your life?

Read Ephesians 4:17-24.

If able to, show clip by Skit Guys (“Identity”).

Say something like: Just like the wallet activity, the idea of having an identity in Christ can also be seen in each and every one of our lives. Faith is not something that you can store away in your back pocket until you need it to get through a tough experience, or that you bring out at certain occasions like on Sundays and at youth group. Faith in Jesus Christ needs to become apart of your identity and who you are, for everyone to see, no matter what they think.

Have a student or leader read Galatians 1:10.

God doesn't want us to prove ourselves to others, he wants us to glorify his name in all that we do, say, think, and act. Donald Miller, the author of *Blue Like Jazz*, says in his book, "What I believe is not what I say I believe; it is what I do."

Consolidate/Debrief

At this point you may use the provided illusions. They may be provide in either a paper format (see handout provided) or you may decide to show the illusions as a PowerPoint presentation, based on your accessibility and available resources. Focus on each picture and ask students what they are able to see. You will want to get them to look at it themselves, and after a moment of reflection, then have students volunteer their answers. This ensures that people have the chance to see what they see and not what others see to begin.

(Answers: 1. Man playing saxophone, and woman's face; 2. Three different faces: woman looking away to the left, man with mustache, and older woman on the left hand side (chin meets up with the left hand side of the mans mustache); 3. the word "LIAR" and an outline of a face; 4. a duck and a rabbit; 5. Inuit face, or the backside of an Inuit)

After discussing the illusions, say something like: Just like these illusions, if you are living a double life where faith is apart of it on Sundays and at youth group, but then all the other days you are living life on your own without Christ, people will be able to see both sides of that eventually. Even if it's not right away, people will clue in to your illusion of faith and that will affect the way you continue to live your life.

That's why we have to remember the words of Peter in 2 Peter. He tells us to "make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will

keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if any of you do not have them, you are nearsighted and blind, and you have forgotten that you have been cleansed from your past sins.” (2 Peter 1:5-9; add verse 3 and 4 for more context if you like)

Bring the lesson to a close, and pray that God will help the group to possess the fruits of the Spirit and to grow closer to God as they seek their identity in Jesus Christ.

Handout: Lesson I

Galatians

Group One

Read Galatians 5:13-15

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed

Questions to Answer

1. What does it mean by 'using your freedom to indulge in the sinful nature'?
2. How can you 'serve one another in love'?
3. What are different ways you see people destroying one another, instead of loving one another?

Group Two

Read Galatians 5:16-18

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

Questions to Answer

1. How does 'living by the Spirit' help with not gratifying the desires of the sinful natures?
2. Why do you think sinful nature is so compelling and so easy to give in to? What entices youth and people to sinful desires?
3. What exactly is this section telling you about sin and living by the Spirit?

Group Three

Read Galatians 5:19-21

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Questions to Answer

1. Can you think of any other sinful natures that fit along with the ones stated here?
2. What does it mean by inheriting the kingdom of God? Why won't people that participate in these actions get to inherit the kingdom?
3. If these are activities society is okay with, how can we stand up for our beliefs when people are pressuring us to partake?

Group Four

Read Galatians 5:22-26

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Questions to Answer

1. You have probably heard of the fruits of the Spirit before, why are they so important?
2. What does it mean for a person to "crucify their sinful nature"? How do they do that?
What happens when they do that?
3. The last verse talks about not provoking and envying each other. How can we do this using the fruits of the Spirit?

Galatians-Answers

Group One

Answers to questions

1. What does it mean by ‘using your freedom to indulge in the sinful nature’? – it means that God has given us the freedom of choice, but he would rather us use it for loving matters, as opposed to something that is sinful and serves our own purpose and not his own
2. How can you ‘serve one another in love’? there are many answers for this, but it would be along the lines of putting others needs first before our own
3. What are different ways you see people destroying one another, instead of loving one another? Gossiping, lying, deceit, stealing, avoiding, etc

Group Two

Questions to Answer

1. How does ‘living by the Spirit’ help with not gratifying the desires of the sinful natures? When ‘living by the Spirit’ we are given all that we need and that God desires for us to have in our lives, and therefore we do not have to succumb to the desires of a sinful nature
2. Why do you think sinful nature is so compelling and so easy to give in to? What entices youth and people to sinful desires? Many things in this world are seen as filling a ‘void’ in people’s lives and makes them happy. When you are satisfying the need to be happy, it is very easy to give in. Friends and family (different influences) entice youth and others to sinful desires.
3. What exactly is this section telling you about sin and living by the Spirit? This passage is talking about how what God wants and what sin provides are contrary to each other. You cannot live a life of sin and live by the Spirit at the same time.

Group Three

Questions to Answer

1. Can you think of any other sinful natures that fit along with the ones stated here? Greed, lust, etc – list could go on.
2. What does it mean by inheriting the kingdom of God? This means that we will be able to live with God in the kingdom He has waiting for us when we die to live an eternal life. Why won't people that participate in these actions get to inherit the kingdom? These actions are against what God wants for our lives, so if we participate in them, we are going against what He wants and therefore won't inherit and be given the gift He has waiting for us in heaven.
3. If these are activities society is okay with, how can we stand up for our beliefs when people are pressuring us to partake? Say no.

Group Four

Questions to Answer

1. You have probably heard of the fruit of the Spirit before, why are they so important? These are characteristics that summarize what a Christian would ultimately embody.
2. What does it mean for a person to “crucify their sinful nature”? They have given up their sinful behaviours and are seeking Godly behaviours. How do they do that? Asking Christ into their lives, asking for forgiveness. What happens when they do that? They are cleansed from their past and forgiven.
3. The last verse talks about not provoking and envying each other. How can we do this using the fruits of the Spirit? If we are living by the fruits of the Spirit (and only the fruits of the Spirit), then there is no room for envy and other behaviours used to tempt one another. The fruits of the Spirit do not