

More Than a Name

Module: THE THREE D'S OF IDENTITY THEFT

Lesson 4: SELF-DOTING

Objectives:

- Students will learn how to think about others before themselves
- Students will examine how others may react to a selfish or conceited person
- Students will learn how to depend on God and keep Him as their purpose

Materials Needed

- 9 assorted balls (e.g. tennis balls, basketballs, soccer balls, etc.)
- 6 buckets/baskets
- Minimum 300 jellybeans (or similar small sized candy)
- Bibles per person (encourage students to bring their own Bibles if they have one, but make sure you have enough for everyone in case no one brings them)

Minds On

Begin by splitting the group up into three teams. Have students get into groups of three, have each group of three decide who will be red, yellow, and blue. Then have all the reds group together, yellows group together, and blues group together. Now you have three teams. You may want to allow the groups to come up with group names (they may choose incorporate the colour or not). Take your students to a large meeting area that is empty with 3 buckets on either end that are colour coded to match their teams. At one end of the room, the buckets should have 3 balls each in them and at the other end, the buckets should be empty. Tell the teams that the challenge is to get all three balls from one end of the room to the other end in their respective buckets. Here are the rules:

1. Only two people can touch the balls with their hands; they are the person that takes the ball out of the bucket and the person that puts the ball into the end bucket. These people must be within one foot of the bucket at all times.
2. The remainder of the group (other than the two people by each bucket) must carry the ball across the room WITHOUT using their hands.
3. Only one ball can be in “play” at a time. Once a ball is put into the end bucket, the team can then go get another ball.
4. Teams have 1 minute to get all of the balls from the one bucket into other bucket.

Once the rules have been read off and understood, let the students know what they are playing for.

Prizes:

1. First place team after 1 minute gets 100 pieces of candy (jellybeans)
2. If there is a two-way tie, each team gets 60 pieces of candy (jellybeans) – total 120 pieces
3. If there is a three-way tie, each team gets 50 pieces of candy (jellybeans) – total 150 pieces

Note: The intention is to have more candy given out if more teams tie for first place, so that even though a single winning team might win, they would get less than if the whole group tied and got more candy overall. The time limit is there so that it is possible for teams to tie.

If available, have a leader or student who is outgoing and witty act as an “announcer” for the game as the teams try and get their balls from one end of the room to the other end. This will allow teams to be informed of what other teams are doing.

After one minute, stop the game and see which team has the most (or all) of their balls in the bucket. Note: a team can also win if they are the first to get all three into the bucket, but due to time constraints, this is unlikely. Tell the teams that the winners will get their prize later on so that they won't be distracted during the lesson. It is important that the prizes come later.

Action

Have the students gather together and tell them that you are going to start by reading a story from the book of Matthew. Explain that you are going to read this story verse by verse, person by person, with lots of explanation between each verse.

Have student/leaders read the verses one by one from Matthew 20:20-28. (There are only 9 verses, so not everyone will get to read, but at least everyone will be following along. Give students the opportunity to “pass” if they do not feel comfortable reading out loud. Also, if you have a big group, feel free to split them up into groups and give leaders these comments/questions that go along with it)

The following comments and questions should follow each of the verses as written.

Matthew 20:20-28 says,

20 - Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

Comment - The two sons were named James and John. They were two of the twelve disciples of Jesus.

21 "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

Comment – The "right" and "left" of the kingdom were the greatest seats you could get.

22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

Question – *What cup is Jesus referring to?*[wrath of God's judgement]

23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

Question – *Why would the other ten be so upset with James and John?* [James and John were basically putting themselves as better than the other ten disciples, as well as everyone else.]

Comment – James and John had never even considered what the other ten disciples would think of them when they requested to sit at the right and left of Jesus, nor do we even know if they cared.

25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Discuss these last few verses and ask students to think to themselves what it means to be a servant, and what it might look like in real life. Have students share their thoughts with the group and brainstorm some ways as a youth group you could practice being a servants.

Consolidate/Debrief

Now it's time to give out the prizes from the game. Based upon your outcome, there will be many possibilities to discuss the options for prizes, but ultimately you want to get the idea across that if no one had competed and there was a 3-way tie, then everyone would have gotten a total of 150 pieces to share (50 pieces per team). However, if only one team wins, they get 100 pieces; and if two teams tie, then they get 120 pieces to share. Overall, having a three-way tie gives you the most.

Help the students see that competing is a way of putting yourself above others, or attempting to, and winning definitely does give you the opportunity to “rise above” those that you beat. (If there was any “rubbing in” from the team that won, you can mention that here, and ask if that makes the other team(s) feel defeated and “lesser” than those that won).

Say something like: When you make the decision to follow Christ, you are consciously deciding that God is first in your life. You look to him to guide you and show you what's next in life. However, sometimes your own ambition can get in the way and over power that identity you have in Christ.

Have a student or leader read Philippians 2:1-4 and stress the last two verses:

Do NOTHING out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Say something like: Christ came to this earth as the Son of God, but never once did He rise above and boast about His position. Instead, he looked to serve others. In the book of John Jesus even washed the feet of his disciples to teach them that everyone should serve one another. This is not to say that you cannot be proud of the gifts God has given you, but you need to be aware of how you are presenting yourself to others. Make sure you keep God as the focus of your life, and your identity will surely remain in Him and others will be able to see that.

End your time together with a group prayer. Pray that your students will remain strong in their identity with Jesus Christ and that they will lean on Jesus when desires tempt them, when they doubt what they believe, and when they want to put themselves above God.