

More Than a Name

Module: WHO ARE YOU?

Lesson 4: IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Objectives:

- Students will answer the basic question of “Who am I” from a Biblical standpoint
- Students will understand that God made them uniquely and for a purpose
- Students will realize that their identity begins with how God sees them and not how others look at them

Materials Needed

- Copies of “Who am I?” handout.
- Paper, pens
- Bibles
- Video clip from “Toy Story.” (cue to 15:58 and play to 20:12)
- 1 Toonie and 2 clear plastic cups (one cup with water, the other with dirt)

Minds On

Have your students write out one statement that describes them and one that's a total lie. When this is done, get everyone in the group to stand in a circle facing inwards. Have them start each statement with the phrase, "I am..." and then they will finish it. They (or you) can read both of them to the group, and the group has to decide which one is true and which one is the lie.

Action

Say something like: Robert Velarde, in his book The Wisdom of Pixar: An Animated Look at Virtue, wrote "the concept of identity is significant. Who we are shapes what we do, but what we do also shapes who we are. If we lack a healthy understanding of the concept of identity, we will wander through life uncertain about what to do with ourselves... the lack of understanding of one's identity actually can be a form of deception. Knowing the truth about who we are and what we were made for is important.

At this point show the video clip from Toy Story.

When the clip is finished have your students come together and spend 5 minutes talking about Buzz and Woody. Have them answer the following questions:

1. Do you know anyone like Buzz who thinks they are something that they are not? How does that impact your relationship with them?
2. Do you know anyone like Woody who is controlled by pride and is consumed by the desire to elevate themselves over other people?
3. How does our view of ourselves impact those around us?

***Say something like:** We are going to spend the next few minutes looking at the most fundamental question of identity, “who am I?” The Christian approach to this question is rooted in God. For us, the answer to who we are is found in God.*

Divide your group into smaller groups of 3 or 4, give them a Bible, pen and paper and have them work through “Who am I?” handout.

Consolidate/Debrief

Once the groups have had time to complete the handout, have them come together for a time of debriefing. The point to this debrief will be to help students assimilate all of the information they have just poured over. Going through each of the questions have members of each group give feedback on what their groups talked about.

***Say something like:** The world is full of messages that are trying to tell us who we are. In this lesson we have looked at the reality that we were each made by God in His image. We all have gifts that we need to use in order for the church to work at peak performance. It is wrong for us to look at anyone else as less important than us. Regardless of who they are, we have been called to love them. I don't want any of you to walk out of this room feeling like you are worthless or unimportant. God made you specifically the way you are for a purpose. Whether you know what that purpose is yet or not, God is looking to you to make a difference in this world. If you can use that as your basis for how you see yourselves then you will live a life of significance, regardless of what you may do.*

Close your time with prayer. Have students give prayer requests and then pray for them as they go.

Optional Module Conclusion:

Say something like: To conclude this series on self image I want to leave you with an image in your mind.

Begin by showing your students the toonie and asking them how much it is worth. Their response will be \$2. Then, drop it in the cup of water. Ask them how much it is worth now? Their response will be \$2. Finally, drop it in the cup of dirt. Once again ask them how much it is worth. Of course the toonie is still worth \$2.

Say something like: Why is this toonie worth \$2? It's because the person who created it said it was worth \$2. No matter what you do to this toonie it will still be worth \$2. In the same way, your creator has said that you are worth the death of his own son. And, no matter what anyone may say or do to you, you are still worth that much. In the same way as the toonie's value doesn't change neither does yours."

Who am I?

Verse	Question to Consider	What the verse says
Genesis 1:26-27	Where does our identity come from?	
2 Corinthians 4:4 Colossians 1:15	If Christ is made in the image of God, how does the way he lived shape our understanding of ourselves?	
Romans 8:17	What does it mean to be heirs with Christ? What are we inheriting?	
Ephesians 4:1-16	What stands out for you in this passage related to how we should live our lives?	
Micah 6:8	What does it mean to love mercy, act justly and walk humbly?	
Philippians 2:3-6	How hard is it to do nothing out of vain conceit? What does this mean in how we view ourselves?	
Galatians 3:28	How should we look at those around us?	
Matthew 6:33	This passage talks of how we keep our view of ourselves on track. What does the verse say about identity?	
John 8:14	Where did you come from and where are you going? How does knowing that impact your view of yourself?	
Matthew 22:36-40	Jesus says these are the most important laws. What do they say about your identity?	