

# **More Than a Name**

**Module: THE THREE D'S OF IDENTITY THEFT**

**Lesson 2: DESIRES – HOW CAN WE OVERCOME SINFUL DESIRES?**

## **Objectives:**

- Students will learn more about their friends
- Students will learn about the difference between Godly and worldly desires

## **Materials Needed**

- Music player and CD or iPod
- White board or foolscap paper
- Markers
- Bible

## **Minds On**

Have the students stand up and gather together in an open area. You will need music for this activity. The students will be walking in random order (not in a line or in a circle) to music. Instruct them that when the music stops, they are to turn to someone close to them (ie. do not search out a specific person). Then you will shout out a question provided below (or one of your own) that will allow the students to get to know something about the other person. Since the topic of the day is “desires”, try to keep the questions focused on something the students want or would want or would like to do one day if money/time/etc would allow it. Continue until you have finished your questions or the students are beginning to lose interest.

Example questions:

- What is your ideal vacation spot?
- If you were given \$1,000,000 tomorrow, what would you do with it?
- If you could fly anywhere tomorrow, where would you fly?
- If you were famous, what type of celebrity would you want to be? (ie. sports star, singer, actor, etc) and why?
- What does your ideal house look like?
- What is your ideal car (money is no issue)?

## **Action**

Call the group together and begin by discussing some of the answers that people either gave or heard during the game. Feel free to target specific questions asked in this section, there is no need to recap all of the questions.

Of the questions provided above you should recap with:

- If you were give \$1,000,000 tomorrow, what would you do with it?
- If you were famous, what type of celebrity would you want to be? And why?

Ask students to reflect on what they think Jesus desired in life. You may have to help them understand that just because there is a difference in historical period, people still had many of the same core desires that we have today.

On one side of a foolscap paper or on the white board write the title “JESUS”, and on the other side “PEOPLE”. Tell your students to come down and write on the piece of paper (or whiteboard) what they feel Jesus desired in life under the title JESUS. Some answers may include: love, peace, people to get along, respect, etc. Once you feel there are enough points under that heading, have students do the same for under “PEOPLE”. An example sheet might look like:

| JESUS                         | PEOPLE                 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Love your enemies             | Big house              |
| Peace                         | Popular/friends        |
| People to get along           | Lots of money          |
| Respect for the Fathers house | Successful career      |
| Compassion                    | Entertaining Lifestyle |
| (Fruits of the Spirit)        | Boyfriend/Girlfriend   |

The point of this section is to have students start to notice the difference between what people’s desires are in general and what Jesus desires. Once you have a reasonable amount of answers, have students sit down again and read over the answers provided. Ask if anyone disagrees with any of them. If there are any disagreements, discuss them respectfully, and as a leader make a judgment call as to whether or not you agree it should be on there.

Be aware that some people may think it is okay to have goals such as owning a big house or having a successful career. If there are any objections, let the students know that it is okay to have goals in life to be successful or have certain things, but like everything else, they must not be their number one priority or how they define themselves.

Once the list is compiled, ask students to think about the differences that they see between the two categories. Have students pair up to discuss with a partner what they feel is different. You won't need much time, since they are just reflecting, so bring the group back together after 1 or 2 minutes to discuss as a whole group what people thought. Have students discuss their thoughts, but ultimately, you are looking for the answer that people desire things for themselves, but Jesus desired things for other people. Also, people mainly desire things that are materialistic and an outward addition to their life, whereas Jesus desired certain characteristics and behaviours from others.

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

Have a student or leader read 1 Peter 4:1-6.

Considering the length of the passage just read, ask the students to give a brief summary of what the scripture was trying to say. Some possible questions include, “*What is this passage telling us about how to live our lives? How does this passage challenge us to live? What does this passage have to say about our identity and what it should look like?*” Once you have given them a chance to give a summary, explain to them what the overall message is.

***Say something like:*** *This passage tells us that if you believe in Jesus Christ, you should desire the same things that He does. If you desire other things, such as money, lust (sex), popularity, drugs, alcohol, and other things the world says you need in life, then your identity has been stolen by the world. If we can change and focus our desires on Godly things as represented by Jesus, and our identity in Christ will deepen and remain strong.*

If you have generated an in depth discussion, you could also include some passages to deepen and give more meaning to the passage already read. These scripture passages could include Romans 8:5-6 and Colossians 3:1-11.

Close your time praying for the students in your group as they battle between wanting earthly desires and Godly desires.