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Big Idea Discussion Guide

**Who are you?
What is your name?
When you look at in the mirror what do you see?**

What defines you?

- Your appearance
- fitness level
- health
- style
- tattoos, piercings
- Your job or career
- title or rank
- profession: lawyer, teacher, nurse, policeman, pilot, medic, hairstylist, etc

Your relationships?

- boyfriend/girlfriend
- husband/wife
- father/mother
- brother/sister
- children
- denomination or church membership
- fraternity/sorority
- 5th group or some other unit
- MOPS
- Titans fan/UT/Alabama
- Democrat or Republican or Libertarian or
- Independent or maybe the Bud Light Party

Your Stuff?

- Income
- savings
- Portfolio or retirement account
- Car/boat/RV (boys and their toys)
- Home
- Vacation home

these things aren't who you are. They are what you do. They are who you do it with. They are what you have. But they are NOT who you are.

These things are not necessarily evil on their own. There is nothing wrong with having a career you enjoy and are well paid for. There is nothing wrong with having great relationships - in fact, God created us as relational beings who long for community. There is nothing wrong with planning for your future or having nice things. The problem comes when we place our faith in these things and find our identity in them.



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BIG IDEA: I am ... who HE says I am.

SCRIPTURE:

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
John 10:10 (NASB)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have a look at the lists above. Which term most describes how you define yourself? Career? Relationships? Possessions? Accomplishments?
2. If that thing that most defines you were suddenly gone...what would happen to you? How would you cope?
3. What if you suddenly found yourself labeled something you didn't like? You were arrested for a crime...or a news article made you out to be a bad person. How would that change your perception on life? Has this ever happened to you?
4. In what ways did your perspective on life change when you became a Christian? Did you see God as defining you when that happened?
5. How does the following set of labels change your perception?
 - I am God's child. - Galatians 3:26
 - I am Jesus' friend. - John 15:15
 - I am a whole new person with a whole new life. - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - I am a place where God's Spirit lives. - 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - I am God's Incredible work of art. - Ephesians 2:10
 - I am totally and completely forgiven. - 1 John 1:9
 - I am created In God's likeness. - Ephesians 4:24
 - I am spiritually alive. - Ephesians 2:5
 - I am a citizen of Heaven. - Philippians 3:20
 - I am God's messenger to the world. - Acts 1:8
 - I am God's disciple-maker. - Matthew 28:19
 - I am the salt of the earth. - Matthew 5:13
 - I am the light of the world. - Matthew 5:14
 - I am greatly loved. - Romans 5:8