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bigIdea small group discussion

They feel permanent and we allow them to define us. But what if we listened to what God has to say about us instead of what others say? Because we all choose to be tattooed and marked by someone. So who is marking your life?

BIG IDEA: The voices you listen to will determine how you see yourself.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you were growing up, what were the designer labels that everyone wanted to wear? Did you ever wear any of these designer labels?
2. What were some of the labels you wore in school? (jock, nerd, preppy, smart, band geek, outcast, in-crowd) How have those labels continued to shape your perception of yourself today?

Your self-concept—the way you see yourself—is determined by what you base your identity on. The book, *Driving Mr. Albert* tells the true story of Thomas Harvey, the pathologist who performed the autopsy on Albert Einstein, kept Einstein's brain in a Tupperware bowl in his home for 40 years! Einstein's brain became the focus of Harvey's identity. The book ends with Thomas Harvey giving the brain to Dr. Elliot Krauss at the Princeton Hospital and it's almost like Harvey is a free man for the first time in 40 years! He is no longer defined by the brain. He is finally free to be himself.

3. We can base our identity on some pretty bizarre things but all of us base our identity on something. What do many people base their identity on? (Looks, status, rank, etc.)

The believer's identity in Christ is not a side issue; it is central to growing in our relationship with Christ. If we do not have a firm grip on who we are, we will give in to Satan's lies and experience the devastation of sin's consequences.

4. Imagine being born in a poverty-stricken third world country, where you have no worldly possessions, and your primary focus in life is just to, somehow, survive. How would you answer the question, "Who am I"? Where would you get your significance and worth?
5. In what ways do we confuse what we do on the outside with who we are on the inside? Is there a difference between the two? Should there be a difference?
6. Read the following verses to discover your true identity in Christ: John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17; 1 John 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:17, 19; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:2; John 15:15; Matthew 5:14; Ephesians 5:8; John 15:15; 1 Peter 2:9.
 - a) How would believing what God says about you give you a sense of significance and worth that can't be shaken?
 - b) How can we know if we are really believing what God says about us?
 - c) What is our part in experiencing our new identity?
7. A person's identity is determined by his relationship to someone or something. What are some of the dangers of basing our identities on things such as our appearance, occupation, accomplishments, abilities, family relationships, friends, etc.? (Hint: all of these are temporal and changing). b) When we were born into this world, our identity was in Adam. We were lost sinners, dead and in need of life. What changed our identity? (see 2 Thessalonians 2:13, Titus 3:5-6)

THINK ABOUT IT

Our identities, who we are, will never be a priority unless we are intentional about being shaped into Christ's likeness. By default, we pay much more attention to what we do or who we know. And as a result, we lose our real identities as Christians. Would you rather be identified by what you do or who you are?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

As a Community Group, pray for one another concerning believing and living out of your new identity in Christ. Confess to one another the lies that you struggle with and the things you've depended on for your identity. Ask God to empower each person to make the switch and live out of his/her true identity in Christ.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

By faith we have been made acceptable to God. We have peace with God because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done. Romans 5:1