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bigIdea small group discussion

Few people are comfortable in the skin God gave them. The voices of Hollywood in the latest fashions meet us daily in the grocery line bombarding us with messages of success and power telling us what we should be. Will we listen to those voices, or will we listen to our Father, who loves us, created us in His image, and gifted us with purpose? In him and him alone do we find approval and learn what it means to truly be beautiful.



BIG IDEA: When we are in a relationship with Jesus, we are who He says we are.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If money wasn't a factor, would you consider cosmetic surgery to fix something about your appearance? Why or why not?
2. Make a list of the people in your life that you really admire and respect. Now, pinpoint their attributes and characteristics that you admire. How do these characteristics match up with these six identity killers? (*Appearance, house, children, relationships, career, religion.*)
3. Of the six things that ladies sometimes wrap their identities around, which one do you struggle with? (*Appearance, house, children, relationships, career, religion.*) Would you add any other things to this list?
4. Could you come up with a list of six things guys base their identity on? How is this list different from the ladies?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 12:1-2.* In what ways do we let the world define what is beautiful in and around us? In what ways are we being squeezed into it's mold?

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity. Romans 12:2 (Phillips)

6. *A lie believed as truth will affect you as if it were true.* Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? What lies are you believing about yourself? How are these lies affecting you and your interactions with other people? With God?
7. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 1:26.* What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How should knowing that you're created in his image change your perception of self?
8. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Psalm 45:11.* How does God see you? Who/what should we base our identity on?
9. From entrée envy to extra marital affairs, many struggle to be satisfied with what we've been given. How do we find true contentment?
10. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Galatians 1:10.* What kinds of things are telltale signs that someone is seeking approval from someone other than God? From whom do you seek approval?
11. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Peter 3:3-5.* Ladies, who do you put your make up on for? Why? In what area of your life do you struggle with the lie, "I'm not good enough?"
12. Guys, do you think men, as a rule, struggle less with image? How is a man's struggle with image different than a woman's?



THINK ABOUT IT

Psalm 45:11 says, “The king is enthralled by your beauty: honor him, for he is your lord.” If God is enthralled by us, how much more should we be captivated by his beauty. This week, honor him by living a full, transparent life so that those around you will know that you are a son or daughter of the King.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week: (1) make a list of values that describe who you want to become; (2) attach verses from the Bible that support these values; (3) take personal inventory to see if you are developing those values; and (4) use your list to measure success.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2

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