



YXYA SERIES

FEBRUARY

Hey Crew Leaders,

This month leading up to Encounter conference, we are talking about Identity which is the foundation of what makes us who we are and often motivates us in our thinking and decision making. As we journey and mature through life, we are constantly bombarded with influences, notions and expectations that try to mould us. However we must remember that as believers of Jesus, we are created in His image and marked by God - not the world.

Through committing our lives to Jesus, being in a healthy community and staying aligned to God's plans and purposes for our life, we will truly find our identity the way in which God intended. Make no mistake, renewing our identity in Christ takes consistency, commitment and obedience!

In your Crews this month feel free to open the floor up to any questions that your youth have. Although the topics we have included in these Crew notes will be good conversation starters, it's important to let the conversation go wherever the youth want to take it; this month is all about them having the platform to ask the questions they want answers to! Have a look through the Crew notes beforehand and pick the areas that you think are relevant to your youth.

This month will be an amazing one for us as a youth ministry across the UK, especially given the fact that we are building up to Encounter in 3 locations: London, Kent and Newcastle!

We hope that you enjoy unpacking all things identity this month.

Have an awesome time,

Hillsong YxYA Teaching Team

Week 1 // The lies we believe

INTRO

The lies we tell ourselves sound like “I am not enough”, or “I am too” or simply “I am ...” Too often we let society tell us who we are and we grow up believing that these lies are facts. For some of us it’s not society at large - it’s a family member, a friend or sometimes bizarrely it's ourselves.

What would happen if we started to really believe what God said about us?

The majority of us don’t voice these lies, we let them sit and fester, sometimes unknowingly. We accept them until we are barely covering up that we are in fact living our lives with a slight limp. What we fail to realise is that this limp, despite our best efforts to hide it, can hinder us in different ways. We end up lashing out at others because of these insecurities. You see, what you believe affects your thought and feelings which in turn determines your actions - if your beliefs are false your actions will display that.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26 NLT

“Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.’”

1 Corinthians 6:19 NLT

“Don’t you realise that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,”

1 John 3:1 NIV

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

MAIN POINT

Our insecurities flag to us that there is a lie we have believed somewhere down the line and it needs to be corrected. It’s an invitation from God to escape the danger of false beliefs about who we are and find true peace in who he is. Give your young people some context for their insecurity vs the value of their true identity: From the beginning, we are told that we are made in the image and likeness of God.

QUESTIONS

Explain to your young people that it is going to take 2 important factors to overcome some insecurities:

- Having a personal relationship with God, reading about God’s character and discovering what He did on the cross and speaking to Him in the form of prayer.
- Accepting the fact that we are children of God - this is their true identity and learning to grow in that knowledge

1.What do you think identity is?

2.What do you think a true identity looks like?

3.What is a lie that you have believed about yourself in the past?

Week 2 // Nothing beats the feeling

INTRO

There's a theory in business, 'hierarchy of needs', that talks about how people are motivated at work. According to the theorist, once a set of needs is met, a person looks to the next level of the pyramid for their motivation. At the third level, individuals are said to be motivated by a sense of belonging to a team and it is this sense of belonging that increases their level of productivity in the workplace.

Our youth crews are similar to this theory, in that they are built upon the three Fs: Family, Food and Fun. These three key features help make a young man or woman feel like they are a part of another family when they come to crews on a Friday night. They know that there is a group of people who love them and will celebrate with them in the highs and encourage them in the lows. With that sense of belonging they are motivated to push further to achieve their goals and dreams because they know they've got a crew rolling through life with them.

That being said, what we do on a Friday night and into the week with our youth, is built upon an understanding that there is nothing that compares to having an individual relationship with God.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:13-14

¹³ But now you belong to Christ Jesus. At one time you were far away from God. Now you have been brought close to Him. Christ did this for you when He gave His blood on the cross. ¹⁴ We have peace because of Christ..."

MAIN POINT

Anyone rolling with a crew that runs deep enough will always feel like a member of a strong family but there is something even more special about knowing that the Creator of all things has your back in every situation.

That's why Jesus says "take heart for I have overcome the world". He knew before our youth were even conceived what trouble they would face in society, but just like He conquered the grave, He has also overcome every heartache, sickness, affliction and obstacle that is waiting on them, to break through and overcome. Our prayer is that we consistently show our young people that the God who sends his angels to protect them day and night, opens doors no one can shut and is able to do abundantly more than our young people could ever imagine. He is with them each and every single day because they have an all-powerful and loving God that lives in relationship with each of them.

QUESTIONS

1. What scares your youth the most?
2. Why does being in a relationship with God, enable them to live a full life in spite of their fear?

Week 3 // Citizen of heaven

INTRO

The expectations, culture and values in society can at times feel foreign to us. As many of the New Testament writers explain throughout many of the letters to the churches, the reason for this is because our citizenship is not on earth, but in heaven. But what does it mean to be a citizen of heaven? A citizen is a person who legally belongs to a state or a country - in the case of God's Kingdom, when we are born again in the Spirit, we are born into God's Kingdom. We are legally bound to God's kingdom, and we become new creations in God.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:13-16

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

MAIN POINT

The great men and women who lived by faith understood that they were strangers on earth. They did not seek to place their treasures on earth, or try and fit in with the customs and culture of the world; their sole aim was to please God and to live by faith, knowing that they would return to their home in heaven. As a result, they lived to please God and left a legacy of faith behind for the next generations to continue. In the same way, as citizens of God, we are called to live a life that pleases God. Whilst we patiently wait for Jesus' return, we must shift our attention from the things of earth to the heavenly things, knowing that we are living as strangers on earth and our home is in Heaven.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be a citizen of Heaven?
2. What is our role as citizens of Heaven on Earth?
3. What ways can we please God?