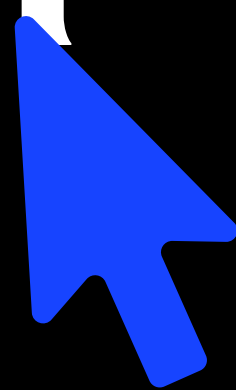


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CREW NOTES

Positively Shaping Myself



Hey Guys,

This month we're sticking to the overarching theme "Same but different"! With so many changes happening in our society today, things may look and feel different, but we still believe in the sovereignty of the same loving God who wants to be involved in every area of our lives.

This month 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 and expectations that try to mould us & shape who we are. It's easily the case that signs and signals are communicated to us without us even realising their impact or the root which they come from. Let's be honest, we can waste hours watching Netflix, scrolling through our Instagram feed without even realising. 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 is how 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! While we're still navigating through a pandemic, some of us are still working and studying from home and now more than ever before we are left alone with our thoughts which can so easily be driven by what we consume.

Our focus for our crews this month is to have conversations around understanding our true identity, which is found in Christ. Whether we are confident or confused about who we really are, Our Identity isn't based on what Society says but rather who God says we are.

Hope you have the best time discussing this topic in your crews,

Hillsong YxYA Teaching Team



Since birth we are inflicted with and taught many labels that have perhaps influenced our identity to be what it is today. Humans in their most natural state are incredibly complex, and sometimes we can find ourselves unsure of who we are. It is so vital that you understand that no matter what people say or no matter what you may even think of yourself - to God you are His masterpiece whom He loves unconditionally and extends so much grace to. There is nothing you can do that can take away or earn that. It's the gift that Jesus died on the cross for. That's simple gospel. Being a child of God should be at the very core of your identity because your identity is based on who God says you are and not what the society around you tries to tell you. Flaws and all, God will always be there to mirror to you that you were made in His image. It can be so hard to not listen to our insecurities or to other voices that try to define how we should be, and that's why we need to be careful with what voices we are tuning in to and listening to. The word of God is so clear about who He has made you to be - listen to it. Meditate on it and practice speaking words of goodness and kindness over yourself so that when the low moments come and you don't feel the most confident or encouraged you are able to remind yourself that your value is not set on the standards and things of this world but rather in the Creator of the universe. You are loved by the One who matters the most.



1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)

“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”

Galatians 3:26 (NLT)

“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Psalms 139:14 (NLT)

“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous—how well I know it.”

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NLT)

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Psalms 37:4–5 (ESV)

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.”



Philippians 4:13 (ESV)

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Matthew 5:13–16 (NLT)

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Isaiah 43:1–2 (NLT)

“But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you, when you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.”

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

“Don’t copy the behaviour 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.”



1. Who does the Bible say that I am?

Suggested Answer: We are children of God (1 John 3:1-3), created in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), set free from death and sin (Ephesians 2:1) by the power of Jesus' blood (Ephesians 1:7), so that we can live in relationship with God (John 1:10-13), free from the burdens of fear (Isaiah 54:14), hopelessness (Romans 15:13), worthlessness (Psalm 139:13-16), worry (Philippians 4:6-7) and unfulfillment (Psalm 63:5)

2. What is my purpose here on Earth?

Suggested Answer: To Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever (1 Corinthians 10:31 // Matthew 5:16 // Psalm 37:4 // Philippians 4:4)

3. How can we be assured of God's plan, purpose and promise for my life?**4. What does the Gospel mean for me?****5. How does the Gospel impact my life?****6. What practical habits or routines can we have that help us live a better Christian life?**

7. Why should we read the Bible, Pray and have good Community around us?

8. How can we live a life 'walking in step with the Spirit'?

9. How does your life change when you 'walk in step with the Spirit'?

10. What should we do if it gets tough, or we sin or fall?

Suggested Answer: Return immediately to God (Joel 2:12-13), repent (Acts 3:19), confess your sin and ask for forgiveness (1 John 1:9) and for the strength to overcome and avoid the sin in the future (James 4:7-10)



Once we are in a relationship with God, we should know that He understands and knows everything about us, the time spent in prayer with Him and His Word creates an intimacy, it reminds our hearts and souls daily that we are loved and seen by Him.

As we share our most intimate, mundane or even at times ugly thoughts, we create a safe space to truly express ourselves and know ourselves without fear of judgement.

In fact, instead of judgement He gives us His Spirit. His Spirit works in us and with us to help us to not only become more like Him and experience more of Him and His power but to do the good things He has asked us to do.

Because of this fact sin loses its most valuable quality: shame. When we truly share our lives and thoughts with Christ, nothing is hidden and so we begin to understand that He sees us as both a masterpiece and a work in progress which gives us both the space to make mistakes and the ability to overcome them. Every time we choose to not stay in a place of condemnation due to sin we are saying that His sacrifice on the cross was more than sufficient to cover our sins.



Jesus > Religion by Jefferson Bethke (Book)

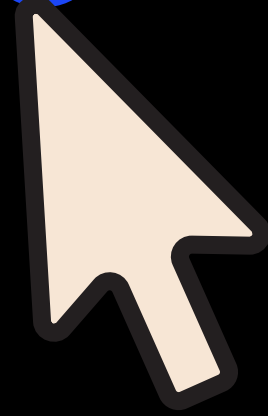
Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris (Book)

The Image of God by The Bible Project (YouTube) - <https://youtu.be/YbipxLDtY8c>

Four Pillars of Walking with God by Paul Washer (YouTube) - <https://youtu.be/7gVDRhzE8nw>



**Positively
Shaping
My People**



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