

# I AM MORE PRECIOUS: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK



## IDENTITY

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image,  
make them reflecting our nature."

*Genesis 1:27*

### Supplies Needed

- ✓ Magnet Poetry Kit
- ✓ Paper and markers
- ✓ Pins or tape
- ✓ Book: *You Are Special* by Max Lucado

### 1) Game: Who Am I?

Get some paper and write names on each piece, such as: Jesus, Justin Bieber, Hermione, etc. Attach one paper to each person's back with tape or a pin. They must then go around the room asking yes or no questions of other teens to figure out who they are.

*Reflection & Discussion:* Ask the teens what information was needed for them to discover their hidden identity. Invite teens to reflect on what would be said about them if their name was on a hidden identity card and if they agree or disagree with those.

### 2) Intro: You Are Special

Read the book *You Are Special* by Max Lucado (virtual readings of the book are available online).

*Discussion Questions:*

- Who are you in this story?
- Based on who you are in the story, what parts of the story were meaningful to hear?
- How does this story relate to our lives & community?
- What can we learn from this story?
  - ◇ What can we learn from this story about God?
    - ... and about ourselves?

### 3) Activity: Who Am I Haiku

Lay out a kit of magnet poetry words (each word is on its own individual piece of magnet). Let the teens explore the words that are in front of them and invite them take the words they want in order to write a haiku answering the question, "who am I?"

*Reminder: Traditional Haiku Structure*

- There are only three lines, totaling 17 syllables.
- The first line is 5 syllables.
- The second line is 7 syllables.
- The third line is 5 syllables like the first.
- Punctuation and capitalization are up to the poet.

*Reflection & Discussion:* Ask the teens to read out their poems to each other. When one teen reads their poem, ask the other youth to listen and then respond to the parts of the peer's poem that stood out to them. After everyone has shared, you can continue to ask the whole group:

- What was easy about this?
- What was hard?
- Why did you choose the words you did?

### 4) Activity: Life Mapping

*Prep:* Lay out whatever materials you are choosing to use for this activity. It can be done on a single piece of paper, or a long newsprint paper, chalk board, phone/video. You can even lay out several options for the teens to choose from based on what will make them feel more comfortable and creative.

*Activity:* Thinking about major life events, people, and learnings throughout their life, participants will create a map based on their life. It can be done like a timeline, e.g:

- Nov. 2nd, 2000: I was born!
- 2005: I started school @ Oxford Elementary where I met my best friend, Emily
- 2010: My grandpa passed away 😞
- 2011: I switched schools which was really hard
- 2012: My friend brought me to her church and I started to learn about God
- ... etc!

#### 4) Activity: Life Mapping (continued)

Or... by several other options!

- Write a letter
- Draw a picture that is significant to you
- Draw your life map in a tree (roots, trunk, branches, leaves)

Guiding questions to help get teens started:

- Who are important people in your life and when did they enter your life?
- Where are significant places?
- What are moments of joy, celebration, challenge and loss?
- What were some of your most significant moments and biggest learnings?
- When have you experienced God throughout your life?
- What have you been passionate about?

Give teens 15 minutes or so to work on their life maps individually and then gather back. Depending on the size of the group, share life maps in a large group, or break up into smaller groups of 3-5. Stress that teens are only invited to share what they are comfortable with.

This is a meaningful activity as it helps us to reflect on our lives and the most significant moments. It also gives teens a chance to share their story... an opportunity we rarely get!

*Reflection & Discussion:* When everyone has shared their maps with their group, invite teens to discuss what it felt like to share their stories. What was hard or easy about it?

#### 5) Closing: Haiku Prayer

Read aloud this text from Genesis 1:27:

**God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature."**

Allow some time to reflect and discuss what it feels like to be made in God's image.

*Prayer:* Go back to the magnet haiku's and lead a prayer by asking each teen to read one or two words aloud that are a part of their poem. For example, you could begin a prayer by saying:

"God, we are grateful for the parts of our identities that we celebrate".... [invite the teens to say their words]

"God, we celebrate the parts of us that make us the most unique and special in your eyes"... [invite the teens to say their words]



*More Precious is the National Youth Project of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.*

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