

Kick it Off

Let's kick off this session by playing the “*Name Game*.” Have students form a circle. Students should say their full name and then give themselves a different name associated with their birth or their personality. For example, “*My name is Anna Smith, but you can call me ‘Harlem’ because that’s where I was born*”—Harlem Hospital or “*My name is Jose Rodriguez, but you can call me ‘Batter’ because I love baseball.*”

Many times students connect with each other by opening up and sharing their identities. They learn more about themselves and others learn more about them. There are many tools that explore teenage identities and one of them is to have a MySpace page. As students continue to flock to this social networking site, many parents and youth leaders are asking the question is MySpace **GOOD** or **BAD**? Explore this thought-provoking article by Tommy Kyllonen aka Urban D. and ask yourself if God can get an invite to your MySpace Page.

Key Verse

“*Don’t be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think...*” **Romans 12:2a, CEV**

Keep it Real

Small Group Study Pass out the magazine or article to the entire group along with the study sheets. Divide the students into four small groups and have students read the article and answer the questions as a group. Make two of the groups the “Pro” Group (meaning they are for having MySpace Pages) and the other group the “Con” group (meaning they are against having MySpace pages). Let each group know that they have 15 minutes to complete the task. Before each group begins to answer the question, let them each state their case—Why they are for MySpace or Why they are against MySpace. After the fifteen minutes are up, have group members from each group share out. Spend 20 minutes on this part of the assignment.

Whole Group Study Pass out the magazine or article to the entire group along with the study sheets. Read the article aloud. Direct students to keep in mind the key verse and idea of being “like the world” vs. “changed by God.” (*conformed* vs. *transformed*). Then, discuss the questions in a whole group forum. Spend 20 minutes on this assignment.

Keep the Faith

Ask for three volunteers from the class to participate in a game called, “**Who Am I?**” As each person comes up to the front of the room, pin a piece of paper to their back. On the paper write the name of a famous person (For example: *Martin Luther King, Chris Brown, Oprah Winfrey, Hillary Duff, Jennifer Lopez*). The first person will turn their back to the audience so everyone can see the name, then he/she will then turn to face the audience. By asking questions which can only be answered with "Yes" or "No" such as "Am I still alive?" "Am I fictional?" etc, the person has to guess their name. Those who are guessing cannot ask more than 7 questions of the audience. Reward those who successfully guess their identity with a prize. Repeat these instructions for the next two persons.

At the end of the game after all three students have tried to guess their identity, pose the following questions:

How did it feel not knowing your identity?

How did it feel searching for answers to find out your identity?

Help your young people know that God has empowered them with wonderful abilities and talents. He knows their identity and believes they are worth so much to him that he created them in his own image.

Assure the young people that God knows that they are searching because they feel alone, confused and hurt. Remind them that they are not alone as they struggle to search for their identity. God sees and he cares. Tell them not to let an online craze disillusion them into thinking they are something that they are not. Moses had to find his identity. Jeremiah had to find his identity, and each young person has to find his/her identity.

Keep it Movin'

Don't become a MySpace fanatic! Make sure you are involved in other activities.

Check your site. Make sure it reflects the “*real*” you. Don't let the crowd cause you to lie about who you are and whose you are.

Be proud of your identity and don't portray someone you're not.

Make sure your chat rooms, blogging, and messaging conversations are clean and respectful.

Don't compromise for others. God would never compromise for you.

Close in Prayer – Pray that we can always be “*real*” with our friends and family and even online. Pray for young people all over our cities who are addicted to MySpace and who have lost their identity online. Pray that young people will understand that the devil can turn anything good into something evil.