



You're Not What You Wear



THE MISSION AIM

To know that God created you, shaped you and loves you. You are unique!



KEY VERSE

1 Samuel 16:7: "The Lord does not look at things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- No supplies needed— this is a review of last week

Directions

SAY: Who remembers what we talked about last class? (G.I.G.O)

SAY: Last week, each of you chose something in your life that you felt was a bad influence on your thoughts and behaviour. I want you to meet with your elbow buddy from last class, and share with them about what it was like trying to remove that bad influence from your life. Let them know what went well, what you struggled with and what your next step is going to be.

DO: Allow buddies to meet and share how the "garbage removal" went. If time, open the discussion to allow recruits to share with the entire squad.

SAY: Today we are looking at influences again. But, we are going to specifically think about how media and culture can influence how we feel about ourselves. Let's get started!



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Kingdom Living Today Episode 3: You're Not What You Wear"

Play "Kingdom Living Today (S1) Episode 3 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have KLT-Episode_3-Not_What_You_Wear.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Various magazines (fashion, sports, etc.)
- Scissors
- A board or chart paper to attach pictures to
- Tape
- Note: Be sure to include magazines that have both male and female images in it.



Mission Assignment

SAY: Let's have a drumroll for today's first mission... (Reading mission card from satellite uplink.) "Recruits, you need to explore the world of media and advertising. Then compare the world's standard for beauty and how we should live to God's standards as found in 1 Samuel 16:7."

SAY: Christie mentioned that media puts a lot of pressure on us to look a certain way; making us think that what they show us is true beauty. While Michael and Christie investigate on their own, they've asked our squad to do the same. We need to look at how media and advertising influence our thoughts on how we should look and dress.

SAY: I have a bunch of old magazines here. In groups of two or three, you need to go through the magazines and find images of what media tells us we should look like. On one side of the board, we will put images of guys, and on the other girls. As your group finds pictures, cut them out and come tape them on our wall.

DO: Students explore the magazines and cut out images that demonstrate what media thinks is beauty. Make sure students find a balance of male and female images. As students bring pictures up to tape on the wall, you may want to ask them what the image is showing and have them write a descriptive word next to it.

SAY: What do advertisements tell us about how guys should look? (*Tough, athletic, tanned, white teeth, toned muscles, expensive clothes, etc.*) What do they tell us about how girls should look? (*Thin, tall, long flowing hair, revealing clothing, brand name clothing, perfect skin, etc.*) Are the standards they set for us fair? (*No, not real.*)

SAY: These are tough standards to live up to, since many of these images aren't even real. Companies use computer technology to change the images. They can make people seem thinner, remove freckles and pimples from skin, even change someone's eye colour! Remember too, the clothing that these people are wearing isn't actually theirs; they borrow it for the picture.

SAY: Now that we know what the world say, we need to see what God says in order to complete this mission. Let's read 1 Samuel 16:7 together.

DO: Read 1 Samuel 16:7 as a class.



NOTE OPTION: If you have access to the internet, you may wish to show the Dove commercial that demonstrates how unrealistic advertisements actually are. It can be found on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYhCn0jf46U>



SAY: What does God look at when he considers a person's value? *(Their heart; what's inside)*
1 Samuel tells us that God does not focus on outward appearance, but instead on what's inside: our thoughts, deeds and personality. As a team, let's go through what the world considers valuable in a person and remove any of the pictures that don't fit with God's standards.

DO: Have students cross out or tear down any images that do not show God's standards (this will likely be all the pictures).

SAY: Wow! It seems to me that there is a BIG difference in what God expects of us and what media and advertising expects of us. I wonder if the Recon Team came to the same conclusion. Let's find out!



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Kingdom Living Today (S1) Episode 3 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Space to move around
- Bibles



Mission Assignment

SAY: Let's see how softly we can do a drumroll for our next mission, quietly now... (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Local Squad, we need your help. Your mission is to look to the Bible to see what God says about how we have been created. Decide what this means about our value and the value of others."

SAY: The Recon Team has brought up some very important points about how our worldly culture has influenced the way we see others. We can be very quick to judge people based on where they are from, how old they are and what they look like. I want to think about this a bit more. Pick a partner and stand face to face with them.

DO: Have students partner up and stand facing their partners somewhere in the room.

SAY: I'm going to ask you a question about what judgements you or others might make about different people. Take 30 seconds to brainstorm an answer with your partner out loud.



SAY: What assumptions or judgements might we make about someone in a wheelchair? *(That they can't do anything; they're weak, and they may not be fun to play with, etc.)*

DO: Have partners switch, finding a new partner to stand face to face with and ask the next question.

SAY: What about someone who is very old? *(They can't hear, they are slow, they are boring, etc.)*

DO: Switch partners again.

SAY: What about someone who is dressed in dirty clothes? *(They are poor, they smell, they are gross, etc.)*

SAY: Excellent work, team! Let's sit down and talk about what you brainstormed. Are these assumptions or judgements you made fair? *(No, we are deciding about someone's personality/abilities/likeability based on outward appearance.)*

SAY: Too often we think we know someone before we even get a chance to know them. We see their outward appearance and assume we know about who they are as a person. By doing this, we are devaluing them as a person. We are saying that we are better than them. However, God's word clearly tells us about why he values each and every one of us. Let's read and find out!

DO: Have students look up the following verses and read them to the class: Psalm 139:13-16; Genesis 1:26-27; 1 Samuel 16:7

SAY: After reading those verses, why do you think God values each of us? *(We are all made in his image, he looks on the inside NOT on outward appearance, he created us just the way he wants us, and we are his masterpieces, etc.)* If God values all of us equally, how would he want us to treat others? *(The same way we would want to be treated, as valuable people, to get to know people before judging them, focus on who they are NOT what they look like, etc.)*

SAY: I think it's clear that God wants us to get past outward appearances and focus on the inside, because that is what counts. That is the part of each one of us that he holds most valuable! Let's see how the Recon Team is doing.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Kingdom Living Today (S1) Episode 3 (3/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.





Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- Before class, print or write 1 Samuel 16:7 on each piece of paper (Small enough that students have space for writing around it. You may even want to write it along the bottom of the page.)
- Cardstock or heavy paper- one piece for each student
- Markers

Mission Project

SAY: Recruits, we have one more mission to accomplish this week, let's read it together, (reading mission card from satellite uplink), "God has made each of us unique. Take some time to discover how you are unique and special to God and how you can use your special abilities to serve God." The commander mentioned that while it is nice to keep a clean and appealing appearance, it is what is inside that is most important; who God made us to be! We are no accident. Every one of us has been made for a specific purpose. We each have inner talents and skills that God values and wants us to use for him. Christie has given us one final mission: to focus on our inner talents (not outward appearance) and use those gifts God has given us for him this week. First, we need to think about what those gifts might be!

SAY: I am going to give each of you a piece of paper; your first job is to write your name in the middle of the page, like you were going to create a brainstorm. Feel free to make your name decorative or fun looking.

DO: Pass out paper and have each student write their name on it. Once done, have everyone sit in a circle.

SAY: Now that everyone has a paper, we are going to fill them with comments about all the great talents and skills we each have. The only catch is: you aren't going to write about yourself! Instead, we are going to pass our pages around the circle and each member of our team will write one nice talent or skill about every other person in our team! For example, I might write on _____'s page (insert name) that they are very patient. Try not to repeat one that someone has already written, so that each person will have a page full of many reminders about how wonderful they are on the inside and how God has blessed them with such great gifts. If you aren't sure how to spell a word, just do your best or ask a team member for help! And don't forget- we are looking at the inner qualities of each other. NOT what we wear or look like!

DO: Have students take turns writing on each others' pages, telling about one nice quality or skill they have observed. Give about one minute for each page and then have students pass to the person beside them. Remind students not to pass until asked to, so that one student is overwhelmed with three or four pages at one time. Once students have their own pages in front of them, you will know that everyone has written on each page.

SAY: Your mission this week is to remind yourselves every day how much God, and your friends here in our squad, values you! The more you remind yourself of how great you are on the inside, the more likely you will be to use the gifts you have been given! God bless!





Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Kingdom Living Today (S1) Episode 3 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- None

Directions

SAY: Before we leave this week, let spend a few minutes talking with God about what we have learned about ourselves. Let's look one more time at what our fellow squad members have written about us. Quietly read through the words written on your page and then decide which of these qualities, skills or talents you think God would like you to use more?

DO: Allow the recruits a few moments to read over their sheets and encourage each to focus on one word. Lead the recruits in prayer, asking God to provide them with opportunities to use the qualities/skills/talents that He has given to them. Provide opportunity for them to pray for each other as well.

NOTES

