

The Original You!



Nine Lessons to Help Youth Be Comfortable
with How God Made Them.

By Charles McCaul



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The Original You

(Overcoming Self-Rejection)

Lesson 1: You are who you are, and you are good! (Teacher should have slides with pictures or photos and the main points)

Psalm 139:13-16

In this life people are different. They have different languages and customs. People look different too. Some people skin is different color. Eyes are different. Height is different. Nose is different. Some people's skin is smooth and some is rough. Some people have full strength and some are disabled. Often in our life people tease us because of our physical features.

How many of you have ever been teased about our physical features? How did you feel?

Drama: We'll watch a short drama about that: Drama about kids making fun of another kid. In the end the kid walks away sad as his friends laugh at him or her.

Sometimes when people do like this to us it makes us feel sad. What do people do when others make fun of them?

- Ask the listeners.

Here are Six Fruits of Self-Rejection:

1. Over attention on clothes.

Because we don't feel good about our appearance we focus too much on clothes. We want to dress nice and look good, but check your motives. Are you spending a lot of money on clothes and jewelry because you want to look nice or because you are ashamed of your physical appearance?

2. Excessive Shyness. (Fear)

Many of us are shy. That's not a big problem. But some people are shy because they are embarrassed about their physical features. Excessive shyness will keep you away from all the great things God has for you.

3. Difficulty Loving Others.

If we don't feel good about ourselves, we will find it hard to open up to others and love others. Love means we must be vulnerable. Love means we must risk opening up to others. But if we don't feel good about ourselves it will be difficult for us to have a close relationship with others.

4. Compare Ourselves with Others.

How many of you compare yourself with others? Who do you compare yourself with? Singers? Models? Actors or Actresses? Did you know that most people who we consider beautiful, handsome or pretty are not satisfied with themselves? They are not satisfied with their eyes, their hair, their skin, their ears or some other physical feature. No one has the perfect body! Everybody has some part of their body they're not satisfied with! Don't worry about others, just be the best you!

5. Perfectionism and Desire to Win.

Sometimes because we are not satisfied with ourselves we try to be perfect. We try to have the perfect grade, the perfect attendance, perfect obedience to our parents or teachers. When we don't do something perfect we are devastated! We sink into depression or isolate ourselves or give up. Some people always try to win because they are not satisfied with themselves. Win at sport. Win at school grades. Win at an argument. We think we must win because if we win we feel better about ourselves. We want to win. We want to succeed. But sometimes our desire to be perfect or win drives people away from us.

6. Criticizing Others.

Sometimes because we're not satisfied with ourselves we criticize others. By criticizing others, we feel good. This is crazy! Criticizing others builds walls between us and others. Then we actually feel worse about ourselves.

Conclusion

So, this is what we can learn:

1. Some people don't like themselves because of their physical features.
2. Because we don't like ourselves we try to compensate for our lack.
3. But usually what we do drives people away from ourselves.

Do you want to know how to solve this problem of self-rejection? (Wait for a response)

- Come back next week and Brother Somoun will tell you more!

Small Groups: I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma). Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

1. Two or three people share when another person said something bad about you. How did you feel? (If no one answers Group Leader shares first)

2. How many of you have ever said something bad to another person? Why do you think you did that?
3. Which of the Six Evidences of Self-Rejection touched you the most?

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.



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Lesson 2: God will use us to do wonderful things no matter what our physical appearance or family situation is. (Teacher should have slides with pictures or photos and the main points)

Psalm 139:13-16, especially verse 16 – “All my days were written in Your book before I was born.” God has a plan for us.

In our last lesson we learned that most people are not satisfied with their personal appearance. We do many things to compensate for our lack. Do you remember any of them?

Everyone wants to be successful. Everyone wants to be loved. God wants us to be successful and give and receive love, too. But to find true success we must live life God's way. God wants us to find TRUE LOVE AND TRUE SUCCESS!

Here is a drama to illustrate that:

Drama: Two friends meet up after not having seen one another for many years. One is a successful businessman or woman and the other is a Christian who runs a shop in front of his or her house. As they sit for coffee they share their stories. The businessman/woman is really successful but he's lost his family, cheated people and has no one close he can really trust. The Christian doesn't have a lot, but he has enough. He has a good family who love each other and many, many friends who love him and will sacrifice for him. Before they leave the Christian asks if he can pray for his friend.

How many of you know someone who is really rich? Maybe they live near you. They have a big house, an expensive car and eat delicious food all the time. However, it's important for us to realize that we don't know their heart. We don't know if they have true peace and love or if they live in fear and do all of this because of self-rejection.

Here are Six Truths we must Understand:

1. The definition of True Success in Life:

True success in life is not determined by how pretty or handsome you are or how many possessions you have. True success in life is determined by if we have become and done all that God created us to become and do.

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God created you for a purpose. He has a destiny for you to fulfill. It doesn't matter how pretty or handsome you are – do your best to look nice – nor how much you possess. The most important thing is to discover why God created you at this time in history and life. (Refer to our LG Classes and SHAPE)

2. Satan knows our potential and wants to destroy it by self-rejection.

We have an enemy and his will cause others to criticize us or put thoughts of self-rejection in our mind. Use your voice to reject him in Jesus' name and command him to leave! Don't follow the negative thoughts he puts in your mind.

3. Satan wants us to think that God has cheated us.

In the same way Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden he wants us to feel that God will not give us everything we need because of our physical features or family or life situation.

4. God is not finished with us yet.

Some children or youth are ugly when they are young, but when they get old they become handsome. Some children are youth are pretty when they are young but when they are older they become ugly! So be patient! God is not finished with you!

5. Our happiness is not dependent on our outward beauty but our inward beauty.

Just because you are pretty, handsome or rich doesn't mean you're happy. When you are pure. When you are good. When you are kind. When you are generous you will have many friends and many people will love you. Inward beauty is more important and lasts longer than outward beauty.

6. Our happiness in life comes from being the unique message from God to others.

You are unique. You are original. There is nobody else like you. God will do a special work in you and give you a message to others that only you can give. Focus on allowing God to create you to be the person whom He will use in your generation to make a difference!

Conclusion

So, this is what we can learn:

1. Success and happiness is not dependent upon our outward beauty, but our inward beauty.

2. Satan wants to discourage us and will send people to discourage us with their words and he will put thoughts of self-rejection in our minds. We must reject him.
3. Our goal should be to focus on the inward beauty and discover the message God wants us to speak to others in our generation.

Do you want to know how to overcome self-rejection? (Wait for a response)

- Come back next week for a YO Fun Night and the week after that Sister Anna will tell you how to overcome self-rejection!

Small Groups:

I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma). Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

1. What did you think about the drama of the rich man and the Christian? What are some of the problems of rich and famous people?
2. Who are two or three of your best friends? Why are they your best friends? How are you a friend to others? What do you do to show your friendship?
3. If you had one piece of advice to give to a person struggling with self-rejection, what would that be?

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.



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Lesson 3: Do the best you can with our appearance but realize inward beauty is more important than outward beauty. (Teacher should have slides with pictures or photos and the main points)

1 Peter 3:3-4

Hebrews 11:1

In our last lesson we learned that everybody has something about their physical appearance they are not satisfied with. However, God is not finished with us yet. He will continue to develop us. We will grow and change. We also learned that inward beauty is more important than outward beauty. Finally, we learned that God has a special message to tell and show the world through us. It doesn't depend upon our outward beauty or physical features.

Sometimes people are beautiful one day, but ugly the next day.

Here is a drama to illustrate that:

Drama: A man marries a woman. The woman spends a lot of time making herself beautiful and at the wedding she is beautiful. The bride and groom go on a honeymoon, have dinner and a nice time. When they wake up the next morning the wife's hair is all messed up, no makeup and she's quite ugly. The new husband is shocked. But in the end he says, "Actually, honey, I didn't marry you for your outward beauty anyway, but for your inward beauty."

Here are Four Things you can do to Respond to your Physical Appearance:

1. Change what you can.

Your face. Your hair. Your disability. Whatever you can do that is not too crazy or expensive!

2. Smile and look into the eyes of the person you're talking too.

Many people who struggle with self-rejection do not look into the eyes of the person they are talking to. However, when we smile and look into the eyes of the person we're talking to they forget about any other physical issue we may have. (Everyone practice smiling and looking into the eyes of 2 or 3 people next to them.)

3. Have faith that God will make you into the person He wants you to be.

Faith sees the future. Close your eyes and see yourself as a person whom people love, who has inner beauty and is telling and showing the message God gave to you for mankind. Faith sees and faith speaks. Be careful about the negative words you speak about yourself and others.

4. Consider any physical issue you are not satisfied with and can't change as God's Mark of Ownership.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

God has made you different from others. You are original. No one else like you. Consider anything about your physical appearance that you are not satisfied with as God's mark on you to identify that you are special.

Conclusion

So, this is what we can learn:

1. Change what we can that will help our outward beauty.
2. See yourself in the future as God's hands, feet and mouth bringing your unique message to the world.
3. If there are some things you cannot change about yourself consider that God's mark that you are unique and nobody else is like you.

Do you want to know how to overcome self-rejection? (Wait for a response)

- Come back next week and Brother Piseth will share with you Four Steps to overcome self-rejection.

Small Groups:

I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma). Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

1. What do you want to be or do 10 years from now?
2. How do you feel when someone looks into your eyes and smiles at you?
3. How do you feel when you look into someone eyes and smile at them?
4. Pray and thank God for who you are, how He has made you and what He will do in your future.

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.



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Lesson 4: You are God's unique vessel. There is nobody else like you. God is in the process of creating you to be like He wants you. Be patient for He is not finished with you yet!

Philippians 1:6

In our last lesson we learned about four things you can do to respond to your physical appearance: 1) Change what you can. 2) Smile and look into the eyes of another person (tell everyone to smile and look into the eyes of another person). 3) Have faith that God will make you to be the person He wants you to be. 4) Consider any physical issues you are not satisfied with to be a mark that you are a special person.

Group Competition: Divide the group into two teams or four teams or more if a big group. One team will compete against one team. One volunteer from each group will join the opposing group. When you say "Go" Team A wraps the volunteer from Team B in toilet paper – from head to foot. They have one minute to wrap the volunteer from the other team as creative as they can. After one minute blow the whistle. The volunteer who is wrapped in toilet paper walks or hops back to his team. The volunteer's team unwrap him as fast as they can. The team who unwraps their volunteer first is the winner and receives a candy for each person.

The lesson: We need each other. Some people are stuck in difficulties but our mission in life is to:

1. Look for help if we are stuck.
2. Help those who are stuck according to our ability.

Here are Four Steps to Overcome Self-Rejection.

1. Recognize if you are ungrateful.

Sometimes we think about our situation too much. We're from a poor family. We don't have a bicycle or motorcycle or appropriate house. We don't have enough money for school or our parents are divorced. These really are problems that cause

us pain. But if we always focus on what we don't have we will become a negative person and a negative person usually doesn't succeed. When we break into small groups we will ask each person to share what they are grateful for.

2. Thank God for the way He made you right now.

We shift our thinking from pitying ourselves to having hope and faith in the future by our words. Our words affect our thinking. When we break into small groups each of us will have the opportunity to thank God for our parents, our siblings, our physical features because we believe nothing is too difficult for Him and his purposes will be fulfilled in our life.

3. Dedicate yourself to develop inward beauty.

Inward beauty is the beauty of our character such as love, joy, patience, goodness, kindness, truthfulness, gentleness. We develop these characteristics by asking Jesus to help us every day and choosing to be good rather than bad.

4. Dedicate yourself to help others know Jesus and develop their inward beauty.

Conclusion

So, this is what we can learn:

1. If we always focus on what we lack we become a hopeless, negative person.
2. We should thank God for what He has done in our life, what He is doing that we cannot yet see and what He will do in the future.
3. We should dedicate ourselves to creating Inward Beauty, not only Outward Beauty.
4. We should dedicate ourselves to helping others know Jesus and create Inward Beauty.

This ends our lesson on *The Original You* for tonight. Next week is a public holiday but we will have a fun YO with games, snacks and a new lesson about being the Original You. Next week you will see a drama about a motorcycle accident.

Small Groups:

I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma). Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

1. Ask each person in the group to share one thing they are thankful for about their life.
2. The Group Leader leads everyone in a prayer thanking God for who they are and what He has done in their life, what He is doing and what He will do:

“Dear Jesus. I want to thank you that you love me. You created me the way You want me. I thank you for what you have done in my life. I thank You for what you are doing this year which I don’t yet see. I thank You for what you will do in my life in the future. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.”

3. Discuss what Inward Beauty would be like. (Look at the list of Inward Beauty Qualities that we should develop. Ask each person which ones are difficult for you? After the discussion ask each person to pray and ask God to help them the Inward Beauty Characteristics he or she needs.
4. Ask each person to pray for the person on their right, asking God to help them develop Inward Beauty that is pleasing to God
5. Ask each person to say something positive to the person on their right and thank them for coming tonight.

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.

Inward Beauty Characteristics

- Loving Others**
- Patience**
- Kindness**
- Gentleness**
- Self-Control**
- Truthfulness**
- Kind Words**
- Pure Thoughts**
- Compassion**
- Contentment**
- Dependability**
- Faithfulness**
- Generosity**
- Orderliness**
- Punctuality**
- Showing Respect to others**
- Submitting to authority**
- Loyalty**



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The Original You: Authority 1

(God uses people who hold authority in our life)

Lesson 4: You can be different. You can be original. Instead of showing disrespect and disobeying those whom God put in our life who have authority, understand how God blesses us through those who hold authority in our life.

Romans 13:1-2

Drama: A youth is riding a motorcycle fast and not stopping at the red light. The youth is stopped by a policeman and is fined. The youth laughs and rides off fast with his friend, runs another red light and is killed.

The lesson: God uses people who have authority in our life to help us find success in life. Most people disobey the authority God put in their life and live their own way. The result is often tragedy.

Three Purposes for Authority in Our Life

1. To Grow in wisdom and character

There was a young boy 12 years old who was very smart. His parents were poor and common people. One time the boy wanted to do something and his parents didn't allow him. He had to choose – do what he thought was best or obey his parents. Even though this boy was smarter than his parents in this incident, he chose to submit to his parent's authority and obey them. This was a Turning Point in the boy's life as it helped him develop the character qualities of patience and he learned from the wisdom of his parents even though they were common people. This boy's name was Jesus.

2. To Protect us from things that will harm us

Show an umbrella: "Why do we use the umbrella?" "What does the umbrella protect us from?" If we move out from the protection of the umbrella what happens? We get wet or we get hot. If we stay under the protection of the umbrella we are secure, even though the umbrella might be a bit restrictive to us. This is how it is with authority. God puts people in our lives with authority to protect us from problems – sickness, accident bad decisions, demons. Sometimes living under authority is

restrictive to us because we want freedom, but sometimes our desire for freedom gets us into trouble.

3. To receive clear direction for life decisions

God has a wonderful plan for you, but if you make the wrong decision about where to work, who to marry or to cheat or lie the negative results may last a lifetime. God puts people with authority in our life to guide us in the decisions we make. There was a girl who loved a boy. On Valentine's Day the boy bought her flowers and candy. The boy told the girl that he loved her so much and if she loved him she would have sex with him. The girl was a good girl and didn't want to compromise her personal values. She remembered the teaching of her pastor and youth leader. But the boy kept putting pressure on her so she gave in and they had sex. The girl became pregnant and the boy rejected her. The girl sacrificed her future because of one wrong decision. God puts people who hold authority in our life to help us make the right decisions for a good future.

Conclusion

So, this is what we can learn:

1. God puts people in our life who hold authority over us to help us grow in wisdom and develop good character that will make us a mature person.
2. God puts people in our life who hold authority over us to protect us from things that would hurt us – like the umbrella protects us.
3. God puts people in our life who hold authority over us to guide us in the decisions we make for life.
4. We must choose to trust God by submitting to those who have authority in our life. He is with us every minute and will give us grace.

Small Groups:

I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma). Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

1. Who are people in society who have authority in our life? (Parents, school teacher, police, boss)
2. Share one experience where you disobeyed your parents and it turned out bad, or share the story of a friend.
3. Can anyone share a positive experience of obeying someone who has authority in your life and it turned out good (police, government, parents, boss, pastor?)
4. Summarize why God puts people in our life who have authority?

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.



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The Original You: A Wounded Spirit

(Sometimes because we are hurt by those who love us, we are wounded in our spirit. A wounded spirit leads us to many more problems in our life.)

Lesson 6: You can be different. You can be original. Don't be like others. When you are hurt by those whom you love, don't reject them, don't turn away and do evil things and don't close your heart. Allow Jesus to pour His love out on you.

Proverbs 4:23

Drama: A youth is rejected by his father after his father breaks a promise. This is a turning point in his life until he eventually wants to commit suicide, but then finally trusts Jesus to heal his wounded heart.

The lesson: Sometimes our parents or others hurt us. This hurts deeply. Often this becomes a turning point in our life where we turn away from God, reject authority in our life and get involved in bad things or isolate ourselves. But when we are hurt God wants us to turn to Him and allow Him to pour out His love in our heart and forgive those who hurt us.

Steps of a Wounded Spirit

Story: One day a father said to his 12-year old son they would go fishing the next Saturday. The boy was excited and began to plan for the outing with his father. He made a list of everything he would need for the trip. He worked for his neighbors to earn money to buy other things he needed for the trip. On Friday night he had everything packed and was ready to go fishing with his dad the next morning. On Saturday morning the father received a phone call from his boss. His boss needed him to come to work because the co-worker was sick and only the father could do the job. The father had forgotten about the fishing trip with his son. He left for work immediately. When the son realized his father was not going to keep his promise he cried. He became bitter. In his heart he decided he would not forgive his father. He started hanging out with some bad boys, drinking, smoking and being disobedient to his parents. Eventually this kind of lifestyle led him further and further away

from his family and God. Eventually he was so depressed he wanted to kill himself. All of this began because of a wounded spirit.

1. Everybody experiences pain from others and sometimes we cause pain to others, too.

In this life we will experience pain and rejection from those we love. Nobody is perfect. In fact, we cause pain to others, too. Don't be surprised when you are hurt. This is life on this earth. However, remember that you, too, sometimes hurt people.

2. Don't allow the hurt to become a Wounded Spirit.

A wounded spirit is when we allow the pain to stay in our deepest of heart and we think about it a lot and choose not to forgive the person who hurt us. Sometimes people are stupid and don't think about the feelings of others. Sometimes the devil works through people to hurt others. Sometimes people are immature and do careless things. The important thing is to guard your heart. Don't allow bitterness to become a root in your heart. It's okay to cry. It's okay to be sad. But don't continue to cry and be sad forever and don't allow the pain to lead you away from God, your family or God's family, the church. **Proverbs 4:23**

3. Allow the pain of rejection to lead you to Jesus.

When you are hurt by others or by disappointment, turn to Jesus. He knows your pain. He is the only one who knows the deepest needs of your heart. The first thing you should do is turn to Jesus, tell Him about your pain and ask him to heal it. You should also stay involved with the church which is the Family of God. You will not find healing when you hold bitterness or separate yourself from God or His family.

Matthew 11:28-29

Conclusion

So, this is what we can learn:

1. People who are hurt hurt others.
2. Don't stay angry or sad when people you love hurt you.
3. Don't allow your spirit to be wounded when you are hurt by others.
4. Turn to Jesus immediately. Tell him about all the pain that is in your heart and invite him to heal it.
5. Stay involved in the church and the family of God and the Word of God.

Small Groups:

I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma). Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

- (1. Welcome each person and introduce yourselves. 2. Discuss the questions. 3. Pray for needs.)

1. Does anyone want to share a time when they were hurt by someone they loved and how they responded? (The Group Coordinator can share first.)
2. What can we do as a friend to comfort someone who has been hurt by another person?
3. When you are hurt, how would you like people to relate to you? What would you like them to say or do when you are hurt? (This is an opportunity for the group members to learn how to relate to someone who has been hurt.)
4. Take a moment and pray silently and invite Jesus to come into your life and heal any pain you have from a wounded spirit. (After a minute of silence the group leader should lead everyone to pray a prayer after him.)

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.



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The Original You: Family Conflicts Affect Our Future

(We bring our conflicts with our family into our relationships with our spouse and work.)

Lesson 7: You can be different. You can be original. Don't be like others. The way that we relate to family members – mother, father, brothers and sisters – affects our relationship with our boyfriend and girlfriend and our spouse when we marry and also our bosses at work..

Ephesians 6:1

The lesson: If we are rebellious to our parents or don't show respect to our parents this affects our character and thinking. This becomes a weakness in our character, thinking and actions that affects our relationship with our boyfriend girlfriend and future spouse when we are married. If a daughter disobeys and disrespects her father, she will disobey and disrespect her husband. If a boy disobeys and disrespects his wife, he will not be faithful to his wife and not honor her.

Drama: A husband and wife are arguing. As they argue they say something like this to one another: "Girl: You are just like my father! He was mean and you are mean to me!" "Boy: You are just like my mother. I hated her and I hate you!"

Resolving Family Conflicts as a Youth

Story: The leaders of a Missionary Organization became concerned because 50% of their missionaries returned to their home country with 2-3 years of arriving in the country they chose to preach the Gospel. These were men and women who were filled with the Holy Spirit and Word of God. These were mature men and women, but for some reason they failed as a missionary. They did not get because they could not get along with their fellow missionaries. This is amazing because missionaries are people who want to show the love of God but they could not get along with their fellow Christian missionaries! As the leaders of the Missions Organization did more research they discovered the reason the missionaries could not get along with their fellow missionaries is because their fellow missionaries reminded them of family members whom they also could not get along with! How we relate to our family affects our future relationships.

- 1. God uses our family to create good character and good habits in our life.**
Whether our family is a good family or a bad family, God uses our family to create good thinking, good character and good habits in our life to prepare us for a good future. We learn to forgive in our family. We learn to be patient in our family. We learn to be kind in our family. **Galatians 5:22-23**
- 2. If we rebel and disrespect family members it creates a wrong way of thinking, bad character and bad habits that also affect our relationships with those we work with and those we work for, as well as those we marry.**
Wrong thinking, bad character and bad habits are difficult to break. It's better to allow God to create those positive character qualities in our life as a youth so we have better relationships in the future. This means we must humble ourselves and choose to show good thinking, good character and good habits as a youth.
- 3. Submit and show respect to your parents and siblings.**
As a youth you have the opportunity to create good habits that will benefit you in every sphere of your life in the future. However, you must humble yourself and choose to submit and show respect to those who have authority over you as a youth.

Conclusion

So, this is what we can learn:

1. If we are rebellious, don't obey and don't respect our parents and siblings as a youth it creates wrong thinking, bad character and bad habits that affect our relationships as an adult.
2. As a youth, submit to your parents, show respect to your siblings and try to be the best child, brother or sister so as to honor Jesus and create good thinking, good character and good habits for a good future.

Small Groups:

I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma). Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

- (1. Welcome each person and introduce yourselves. 2. Discuss the questions. 3. Pray for needs.)
1. Open the Bible and read **Galatians 5:22-23**. These are good thinking and good character and good habits for the Christian and anyone who wants to have success in life.
2. Ask each person in the group to share which of these good character qualities are easy for them and which is difficult for them.
3. Take a moment and each person pray silently and invite Jesus to come into your life and help you obey and show respect for your parents and siblings. (After a minute of silence the group leader should lead everyone to pray a prayer after him.) Ask each person to pray again and ask Jesus to forgive them of rebelliousness and

stubbornness and ask Him to give you the power to produce the fruit of the spirit in very situation. After a minute of silence the group leader should lead everyone to pray a prayer after him.)

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.



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The Original You: Making Wise Decisions

(We bring our conflicts with our family into our relationships with our spouse and work.)

Lesson 8: You can be different. You can be original. Don't be like others. God has a destiny for you. He knew you before you were born and has a plan for your life to be successful and give honor to Him and help others. Jeremiah was a young man like many of you. When he was young the God of the Universe revealed himself to Jeremiah and commissioned him as a prophet to have positive influence over nations.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

God has commissioned you for you to be a person who has success and to have positive influence in your family, among your friends, at your school and at your work.

The lesson: However, we can ruin our life or miss everything that God has planned for us if we make an unwise decision. If we choose to drink and go out with our friends and someone is killed or put in jail. If we decide to have sex and we, as a girl, gets pregnant. If we cheat at work and get fired from our job. If we marry the wrong person. All of these decisions affect our future and sometimes we miss what God has planned for us.

Making Wise Decisions According to God's Will for You

Story: The teacher tells a story of someone whom he/she knows who made a bad decision which affected all of their life negatively.

1. Don't trust your own understanding, but trust in the Lord.

- Pray
 - Read the Bible and discover God's principles in every area for success.
- Proverbs 3:5-6**

2. Walk in the Light.

This means live righteously and holy. If you commit a sin with your thoughts, your mouth, your body ask God to forgive you immediately and don't do it again. If we are

angry or don't forgive or say something that hurts others. Sin blocks God from doing everything in our life that He wants to do.

3. Ask those who have authority in your life.

Don't trust your own wisdom or experience. Before you make an important decision for your life ask your parent, your pastor or someone who has experience in life. Listen to their advice and submit to them.

Proverbs 12:15; 19:20

Conclusion

So, this is what we can learn:

1. God has a wonderful plan for our life.
2. If we make an unwise decision we can spoil or life and the plans God has for us.
3. We should pray and read the Bible to know God's principles for success and what pleases and displeases Him. We should confess our sins and turn away from them so as not to block God's blessings and guidance on our life. We should seek the advice of a mentor or mature person before we make big decisions.

Small Groups:

I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma).

Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

- (1. Welcome each person and introduce yourselves. 2. Discuss the questions. 3. Pray for needs.)
1. Ask the members of the groups to share a story of someone they know who made a bad decision and it negatively affected their life. (If no one shares, the Group Coordinator should share first)
2. Ask if everyone in the group has a Bible. If they don't have a Bible note it and inform Somoun. We will try to get them a Bible next week.
3. Ask someone to share a Bible verse that helped them in their life. (Only the Christians in the group will know the Bible verse. If no one shares, the leader should share first)
4. Can someone share a time when the advice of someone who had authority in their life or someone they respected gave advice that really helped them?

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.



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The Original You: God's Plan for You

(God has a destiny for you; He has a plan for you. Don't allow others to have a negative influence over you to lead you away from God's destiny for you.)

Lesson 9: Joseph was a young man who overcame betrayal and difficulties to eventually be a man whom the Lord used to save a generation. God wants to do the same thing in and through you!

Genesis 50:20

The God of the Universe has a plan for mankind and this earth. You were born in this country and at this time to play your part in God's plan like an actor in a drama.

The lesson: We want the youth to know that they are special and God has a plan for their lives. The plan includes their success in every area of life but more than that. They are like an actor in a drama. They have a part to play. It's important that they prepare for their part and remember they are a key person in what God is doing on the earth and not get distracted by the difficulties, temptations and pleasantries of this world.

Preparing Yourself to Play Your Part in God's Drama

Story: Interview someone who has experience in a drama – leading or acting. Ask them what they do to prepare for their part. What are the obstacles? How must they discipline their time? How do they remember their parts? How do they work with others?

Genesis 37-50

Joseph was a young man who had a big dream. He dreamed he would become an important person so that even his 11 brothers and mother and father would honor him. However, during 13 years he passed through many difficulties.

- He was rejected by his 11 older brothers
- His parents didn't believe in him

- He became a prisoner in a foreign land where he didn't know the language, food or culture
- He was promoted in his job
- He rejected sexual temptation but the woman he rejected was a man of power. She lied about Joseph and he was put in prison for about 10 years!
- During this time he didn't become angry or bitter and didn't lose his faith in the plan that God had for him.
- Eventually Joseph was released from prison and became the Deputy Prime Minister of the Country.

This is amazing! He suffered and waited for 13 years. He was faithful in the small things and always did the right thing in the eyes of God and man. Because he was **diligent, faithful and forgiving**, God raised him up.

In the end, he was rich and had everything he wanted. But God's purpose was not only success for Joseph, but Joseph became the mediator to save a generation of Jews from death.

Remember, your blessing and prosperity is not just for you, but it's for others. God want to work through you to save many others and become a blessing to them. Don't forget that!

Small Groups:

I want you to break into groups. All Group Leaders stand up (each should have a karma). Snacks will be served to you but I want you to discuss these three questions:

(1. Welcome each person and introduce yourselves. 2. Discuss the questions. 3. Pray for needs.)

1. If you had all the money you needed and all the freedom, what would you do with your time, money and freedom?
2. What difficulties have you met in your young life so far – poverty, family problems, persecution, lack of education?
3. What group of people would you like to help and how would you help them? Children? Youth? Young men? Young women? Rich people? City people? Country people? Old people? People in Cambodia? People outside of Cambodia?
4. Taking all of our New Life LG Classes and being involved in this cell group will help prepare you to be the kind of person God can use His power through and use you to be a blessing to others. Share what classes you have taken so far.

Give each person the NLF Pathway Card and encourage them to take each step? (Put it on the LCD)

After a few minutes of discussion ask if there is anything to pray about? Family problems. School. Sickness. Finances. Pray for one another and close.

Charles McCaul



Charles McCaul has been married to Cynthia McCaul since 1974. They have four children. After serving as an assistant pastor at *Valley Christian Center* in Harrisburg, Oregon for 4 years and *Eugene Christian Fellowship* in Eugene, Oregon for 14 years they moved their family of 4 to Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 1995 where they assisted in laying the foundations and building up what is now the largest local church in Cambodia, *New Life Fellowship*, and serving on the Apostolic Team of *New Life Fellowship of Churches in Cambodia*. Chuck is an author of more than 25 book and booklets focusing on Christian Leadership, Local Church Issues, Personal Growth and Bible-Related Studies. Many of them have been written for the Cambodian Context and have been translated into the Cambodian Language. Charles is also director of the Cambodian Leadership Institute.

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Many written, audio and video lessons are often available in both English and Khmer Language.