CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Living by Divine Design

Lesson 2: Know Your Value

About This Lesson

The young people are loved and valued by God who uniquely designed them with a good plan and a purpose for their lives. The enemy wants to cheat them out of their divine design and purpose. This lesson is important because if they don't perceive their value, they won't live up to what God has called them to be and to do.

Key Takeaway: You are valuable and need to recognize your value in and from God. God values you because you are created in His image for a purpose.

Key Verse: Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Teaching Outline:

I. YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT! YOU WERE CREATED WITH INCREDIBLE PURPOSE!

A. God only has good plans for you!
Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

1. When you walk on the path He has for you—everything is better! His plans go beyond what you can even dream!
Ephesians 3:20 *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.*

B. What happens if you are off track from God's plans?
1. God will help you get back on track!
Proverbs 16:9 *A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.*

2. Share a personal example of something you planned or hoped for that didn't happen, but now you see the Lord directing your steps and protecting you.
3. Even when you get off track, God still has an incredible future and life filled with hope for you!

II. KNOW YOUR VALUE

A. What determines a piece of artwork's value? The artist's skill and fame ultimately determine the value!
   1. If you were going to spend $100k on a piece of artwork, would you buy a masterpiece by a famous artist or a finger painting by a preschooler?

B. You are a valuable masterpiece because God made you in His image. Animals and angels aren't made in His image—only people.

C. You are so valuable that Jesus died in your place to pay the debt of your sin and to offer you eternal life with Him!

D. You are valuable because no one else is like you. You are one of a kind!

E. YOU are uniquely, divinely designed and planned to live at this time to fulfill a purpose!

F. God created you with a good plan for a good purpose.

III. KNOWING YOUR VALUE KEEPS YOU FROM BEING CHEATED!

A. A valuable masterpiece is framed and placed in a protected setting. You wouldn't leave it on the floor for someone to step on or spill on it.

B. When you know that you are valuable, you want to live in a way that shows your value and protects it.
   Colossians 2:6–10 *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, [7] rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. [8] Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to*

Christ. [9] For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; [10] and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

1. Verse 6 – As you received Jesus, keep walking with Him! The best track is always next to Jesus.
2. V 7 – Stay rooted and built up in Him by being thankful!

C. Don't be cheated!
   1. You can be cheated when you don't know your value and sell yourself for far too little!
   2. The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). He doesn't want you to know your value and live out the purpose God designed for you.

D. Here are some things from Colossians 2:8 that cheat people from seeing and fulfilling God's design for their lives:
   1. Philosophy is a system of thought, a framework for seeing the world, a way of life.
      a. Don't listen to anything that goes against God's Word. Use your biblical worldview to evaluate things.
   2. Empty deceit means striving and working for something you think is valuable, but it really isn't. It's empty.
      a. There are a lot of fake copies people buy, thinking they have the real masterpiece. Don't fall for a fake; you'll find truth in God's Word and from the Holy Spirit.
   3. Traditions of men are any tradition that makes the Word of God powerless. Jesus said that religious traditions can go against the Word of God. Mark 7:13 *Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.*

   4. Basic principles of the world do not follow God's Word, such as the idea that "if it feels right, it is right" or that truth is subjective and "if you think it's true, that is your truth and it is true."
      a. Just because you hear teachers, influencers, or peers saying these principles, don't follow them because these principles will cheat you out of the success God has for you that comes from following His ways!

Bottom Line:

God made you, loves you, values you, and has an awesome plan for your life! Know your value so you won't be cheated and settle for less than God has for you!

Small Group Time:

1. Proverbs 16:9 says that *"A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."* It is good to have plans, dreams, and goals. Sometimes your plans don't work out, but later you might see how God had something better for you that fits with what He designed for you.

- What are some of your goals for this school year?
- Do your goals match the divine design that you are created in God's image and are valuable?
- Have your plans ever failed to work out, but God did something better for you? Explain your answer.

2. Since the Garden of Eden, the enemy has wanted to cheat and devalue God's creation. The Bible says that people can be cheated by philosophy, empty deceit, traditions of men, and the basic principles of this world.

- What are some things you notice that cheat young people from the best life that God would want for them?
- How can you guard against being cheated out of what God has planned for you?

Declaration:

"I am unique and wonderfully made! I am valuable! I will not be cheated! I know who I am! And I am walking with Jesus no matter what!"

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** Who do you feel valued by and why?

- **Pray:** Ask God to help you recognize ways He affirms your value and ask for opportunities to speak encouragement into the lives of others who need to recognize their value.
- **Read:** Each day this week, read one verse and write down what God is speaking to you about your value to Him: 1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 1:4, Colossians 3:12, and 1 Corinthians 6:2.
- **Live It:** 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*" You are valuable, so act like it. Look for ways to glorify God and show your value through what you say and do.
- **Create:** Make a word collage of words and phrases that speak about your value and the divine design God has for your life.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What song would you choose as your theme song, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Use these questions to foster a group conversation about value:

- If you could have anyone's autograph (alive or from the past), whose autograph would you get?
- What would you want them to sign?
- Would their signature make that item more valuable?
- When you believe on Jesus—His name is written on your heart! His autograph is on your life. What does that do to your life's value?

Opening Affirmation: "God's Word says I'm created in God's image with a divine purpose. I know my value, and I choose to clothe myself with my heavenly designer clothing."

Giving Time: Philippians 4:6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

Many young people are anxious about finances. We serve a God who isn't worried about finances and doesn't want you to be either. Talk to God about your concerns and be thankful for all that He has blessed you with. Then, you can make

your requests known to God and give money for the Lord's work without anxiety, knowing God has heard you and is faithful to take care of you.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: This week's challenge is to help your peers feel valued. Make a list of who needs to feel valued and what you can say or do to show that you value them. Tell them that God created them in His image with a unique purpose and good plan for their lives. Invite them to church and offer to pray for them.

Biblical Worldview: The Bible says that it is the truth that you know that sets you free (John 8:32). Knowing the truth about your value will help you make good decisions in life and keep you from believing lies that try to steal your value and purpose. Christians can find the truth by studying God's Word and then living what He says—that's how to live out your biblical worldview.

Outreach/Missions: When you think about the entire population alive on the earth, each person represents someone of value who was made in the image of God. Many countries have restricted Christians from sharing the Good News about Jesus and God's good plan for people to know and worship Him. Gather in small groups and pray for people in countries with limited access to God's Word and the truth about Jesus. Pray for the missionaries your church supports to share with people that they are valued by God and were created with a divine design!