

BiG iDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

5.09/10.09 // WHAT MAKES A WOMAN BEAUTIFUL?

BiG iDEA: God values inner beauty.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: Who was your favorite actress as a kid? What made her your favorite?

Option 2: Have you known someone who struggled with self-worth based on their looks? What happened to them?

// Questions for Discussion _____

1 Some people claim “love at first sight.” Is this possible? Does it fit in with the meaning of love?

2 Our society is obsessed with physical beauty, and many women are caught up in that obsession as well. But should beauty really be that important for a woman? What kind of beauty should a Christian woman strive for?

1 Peter 3:3-5 (NLT)

3Don't be concerned about the outward beauty that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. 4You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. 5This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful.

3 What are some qualities that make a person truly beautiful inside?

1 Samuel 16:7

“The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Proverbs 11:22

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

4 Brett talked about the Miss USA pageant's controversy over Miss California controversy and how she's a Christian, but she's also a model — and as she said, models pose in swimwear and lingerie. This is not the image of modesty we want out there of what it means to live for God. What “disconnects” can there be between claiming to believe in Christ, and the way a person behaves? What outward image are you giving that you live for God?

1 Timothy 2:9-10 (NLT)

“And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes. For women who claim to be devoted to God should make themselves attractive by the good things they do.”

5 Often we find ourselves trying to tell those around us that we are Christians by wearing t-shirts with bold Christian statements, carrying a Bible, or displaying a gold cross around our necks. How should we outwardly show the world that we are Christians?

Colossians 3:12

...Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

6 How can you avoid being molded by society and its vision of beauty? How would things be different if we value what God values?

Romans 12:2 (The Message paraphrase)

“Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

7 Someone has said: “When we die, do we want people to exclaim, ‘She looked ten years younger,’ or do we want them to say, ‘She lived a great life!’” What do you want people to say about you at your funeral?

// Application_____

Read and commit to memory 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

// Prayer_____

Pray that God unveils your eyes to see what He thinks is beautiful

Pray that you will submit to God so that He can make you a new creation