***LIFE CONCEPTS FOR YOUNG ARTISTS***

***1. IDENTITY IN CHRIST***

*"The truth, even though I cannot feel it right now, is that I am the chosen child of God, precious in God’s eyes, called the Beloved from all eternity and held safe in an everlasting embrace... We must dare to opt consciously for our chosenness and not allow our emotions, feelings, or passions to seduce us into self-rejection."*

*~ Henri Nouwen*

*“Not only do we not know God except through Jesus*

*Christ; we do not even know ourselves except through*

*Jesus Christ.”*

*~ Blaise Pascal*

(Pascal was a Philosopher who believed that human thinking and reason were not enough; the human experience must be actualized by knowledge and relationship with his Creator.)

 The Christian's identity is secure because of Christ and what he has done. Faith is belief in God & his promises.

*The word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue*

*in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest. It’s*

*the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and*

*set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching.*

*Say the welcoming word to God— “Jesus is my Master”—*

*embracing, body and soul, God’s work of doing in us what*

*he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That’s it. You’re*

*not “doing” anything; you’re simply calling out to God,*

*trusting him to do it for you. That’s salvation. With your*

*whole being you embrace God setting things right, and*

*then you say it, right out loud: “God has set everything*

*right between him and me!”*

*- Romans 10: 8-10, The Message*

Two major parts to assurance and security in Christ:

*-knowing where our security is found*

*-knowing how our security in Christ is maintained*

The Christian is often subject to doubts or questions, or a lack of knowledge, which can affect their sense of security and identity.

**THINK:** How can we keep our identity under the lordship of Christ?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

· What other places are you tempted to draw your identity from other than Christ?

· When Christ is at the center of our lives, how does this affect our everyday life?

· How does Christ infuse the work that you do?

**ENGAGE WITH OTHERS :**

If you listen to someone long enough, you will find out where they find their ultimate significance and identity. Ask people if they would share their story with you. Thank them for sharing with you. If it is appropriate offer to share what led you to place your faith in Christ. Remember, listening to them while they share their story is extremely important.

**REFLECTION (journaling):** During the next week, take note of things that reinforce your identity in Christ. Bring to God unconfessed sin, and remember that you are forgiven and accepted by Him. Some other ideas:

* How do you see your identity coming through in your art?
* Meditate: *John 15:5; 1 Corinthians 6:20 or Colossians 1:27*
* Recall your journey and how Christ came into your life and the changes that have occurred. Recognize His work to make you holy (sanctification.)
* Record the lies you hear about yourself, and what triggers them.
* Meditate on stories in Scripture that reveal how Christ dwells in His people. Ask yourself, “How is this similar to me?” and “How should I respond?”

**PRAYER:** Our ultimate confidence is in Christ not our emotions and experiences. Thank God for the beauty and mystery of Christ living in us. For the next several minutes let’s take the time to be still before Him. You can confidently bring to God all your questions, and ask Him to speak to you because He hears you.

**OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL MATERIAL:**

*To Be Told: God invites you to coauthor your future* by Dan Allender

*Victory over Darkness* by Neil Anderson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKu1f3TWIQQ> a video testimony by artist Mako Fujimura