

THINKING DEEPER

How would your parents describe you? Your closest friend? You biggest rival?

Discuss the relationships and compare the words in each situation.

LOOKING DEEPER

- 1. Clayton says, "It's a relationship that gives us our identity." Do you agree? Jot down some notes and discuss with the group? Discuss times when their personality has changed in order to connect with someone. It is common to act a certain way in order to be accepted. Listen to the responses and help them see how relationships impact their identity.
- 2. Who do you give greatest priority in your life? Is it someone from your THINKING DEEPER list? How does their opinion about you determine your identity? Answers will vary. What are the consequences of how relationships shape our identity?
- 3. Read Romans 8:38-39? What does that verse say to you? Does it give you confidence to live for God? Since there is nothing that can separate us from God's love, we should be excited to let our life in Christ shine bright in a dark world. Even if we falter, it doesn't change how God loves us or who we are in Him.
- 4. What impact does it make in your life to hear Jesus call you His friend (John 15::13)? How does it change you see yourself? Discuss implications. How does it feel when your best friend calls you friend. Now discuss what it is like to know how the Savior of mankind calls you friend!

GOING DEEPER

Read Romans 1:16; Colossians 1:1; and Titus 1:1-3. How does Paul identify himself? How would you be looked at if you identified yourself a "servant of Christ" as boldly as Paul did?

Here's a challenge: Tell at least one person you don't know about what kind of friend you have in Jesus. Write some notes on how they responded. Pray for them each day. Share your experiences with your small group. If you need some help, counsel with your student leader.