

Inviting God into Your Identity Formation

1) There are four primary things which shape identity

- a) The **quest** defines you.
- b) The **experience** defines you.
- c) The **relationship** defines you.
- d) The **stories** available to you by which you define yourself

2) What would it be like to invite God into the shaping of your identity?

- a) Can you imagine God being present as your identity was shaped?
 - i) Where does He come close?
 - ii) Where does He say, "Don't believe that perspective, hold onto Me and believe this!"
 - iii) What would be different? What would you have to give up?
- b) Can you imagine God reshaping your identity via His dreams and His interactions with you?
- c) What is God's invitation to you now regarding your identity?

3) Discussion: Things to think over and discuss with your Soul Friend Mentor .

- a) What constitutes "identity"
 - i) Identity is defined as "individual characteristics by which a person is recognized".
 - ii) Identity includes self-concept, perceptions of others, character and values.
 - iii) One theory suggests that identity is formed from interaction—"the most important thing about people is not what is contained within them, but what transpires between them" (George Herbert Mead).
- b) What has shaped your identity?
 - i) answer questions #1 and #2 after considering the following:
 - (1) **Name an event/experience; person; and/or idea that has shaped you**
 - (2) **How did this influence contribute to the way you currently think of yourself?**
 - (3) (Subsidiary questions to stimulate your thinking).

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What did your parents say to you when you were little?○ How did family members react when things got tough? How did you react?○ What nicknames or other names were you called as a child? What did you call yourself?○ What is your one of your best memories?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What was your favourite fairy tale as a child?○ What do you expect to be doing 10 years from now?○ How much does your "real self" control your actions--on a scale of 1(never) --10 (all the time)?○ What would you put on a t-shirt so people would know it was you coming?
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- c) What God thinks of you?
 - i) Discuss from one of the following passages how God/Jesus thinks of you (or the person in the narrative): Genesis 1-2; Psalm 139; John 4:1-42; John 9; or 2 Cor. 4.
 - ii) How do you imagine your identity to be similar or different if it was primarily shaped by what transpires between you and God?