PRECIOUS TO GOD!

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Discuss the “How valuable am I?” sheet. How did they rank themselves? This will be a good indicator of their self-esteem. Be careful not to ask for specific rankings, as they may not want to share their personal feelings about themselves. Instead, ask them how teenagers in general would rank themselves. How did they rate themselves differently than how they rated how much God values them? Should they be the same? Why or why not? Point out that each of them has value placed on them by God, and each of them is an instrument to be used by God. Without this purpose, some people feel useless and hopeless.

Have a discussion with the group about self-esteem.

*Leader notes: Low self-esteem robs people of the value they have in God. In order to love others and love God, they must love themselves too! High self-esteem is an idol, and will form a barrier between them and God as they cannot humble themselves before God. As you discuss self-esteem during the small group time, allow the kids to guide the conversation about self-esteem, but try not to inject your opinion on whether or not self-esteem is good or bad. They will explore this in greater detail in their solo devo time and come to a conclusion on what the bible says about it.*

Would you say that you have high self-esteem or low-self-esteem?

What shapes your self-esteem?

What influence does society have on them (advertisement, songs, social media, etc.)?

Read **Matthew 22:37-39.**

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| 37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” |

What does this say about loving ourselves as God loves us?

Should you value yourself? Why, why not?

Should you value others? Why, why not?

*Leader notes: Showing God’s love to others means accepting others for who they are and valuing each of them, just as God does.*

*Let them know that you value each of them!*

How do they value each other?

Their friends?

Their sometimes irritating parents?

Their annoying siblings?

*Close by praying for the members of your group, thanking God for demonstrating how much He values them – and ask for His strength to help them value others as He values them.*