PRECIOUS TO GOD!

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

***Both Groups:***

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.

***Junior Group:***

How does the media and society shape what people value? Spend some time talking about how TV, movies and music have affected what others think of each other. For example, what do movies say about sexual respect and genuine love? Who does society hold in high esteem, and is that person worthy of ultimate respect and admiration? How do these influences compare to their individual admirations and high regard for others? What about Christians at large?

Read **Matthew 22:37-39.** What does this say about loving ourselves as God loves us?

Take a moment to acknowledge your appreciation and love for each of them. Point out that each one of them is extremely valuable to the group, and that you appreciate the different characteristics that they bring to the group. The uniqueness of each one brings variety to the group. Without variety, a group would be dull! What could they each do this week for someone that they appreciate (a friend, family member, teacher, pastor, etc.)? Encourage them to follow through with it – it may be a simple e-mail, note or phone call. Close in prayer for your group and for the value that God has for each of them, and ask Him to help us value each other as He does.