



TEACH IT TALK SESSION 10

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides, allowing you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings (such as small groups) without too much overlap.

1. Materials (Optional)

- Movie Trailer: The first 56 seconds of the trailer for *Twins*, featuring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. Go to the Main Menu on the DVD, select Bonus Materials, and then select Theatrical Trailer. You may also be able to find the trailer online on a video-sharing Web site such as YouTube.
- A large mirror
- Quotations that relate to personal identity

2. Optional Openings

MOVIE TRAILER

Show the first 56 seconds of the trailer for *Twins*, stopping after the line, "Only their mother can tell them apart." Preview the clip before your talk to be sure it's appropriate for your group. After the clip, share—

Why is that idea so hilarious—that two guys who are physically totally opposite are identical twins? It just is! It's just funny that short, pudgy, balding Danny DeVito can look at Arnold Schwarzenegger and actually think, *This is like looking in a mirror!*

The thing is, you and I look in the mirror all the time. Maybe we see the identity we want to see, like Danny DeVito does. Or maybe we wish we saw something else. I wonder what Jesus sees when he's looking at us—if it's the same thing we see in the mirror or if it's something completely different. What is our true identity?

VISUAL ILLUSTRATION

Take a large mirror and place it behind you on the stage. Turn your back to the audience, and talk to the audience while looking at them through the mirror. Explain—

Even though you're only seeing an image of me (that obviously isn't me), it still tells you a lot about me. By looking at the mirror, you'll know about how tall I am, my approximate weight [insert a joke about your physical appearance here], and get a general idea of how I look, even though you're looking at a piece of glass, not at me.

QUOTATIONS

Share a few of the following quotations that relate to personal identity, particularly identity in Christ. Use these quotations to introduce the idea of how we develop our identities, particularly as it relates to following Christ. You can read a few or all of these, or insert them into presentation software (e.g., MediaShout or PowerPoint) to project as students enter your room or to use in opening your talk.



In the midst of a generation screaming for answers, Christians are stuttering.
—Howard Hendricks (1924–present, noted Bible teacher and author)

The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose.
—C.S. Lewis (1898–1963, author, scholar, and Christian apologist)

In great matters men show themselves as they wish to be seen; in small matters, as they are.
—Gamaliel Bradford (1863–1932, American biographer, critic, poet, and dramatist)

How many cares one loses when one decides not to be something but to be someone.
—Gabrielle Bonheur “Coco” Chanel (1883–1971, French fashion designer)

The beginning of a habit is like an invisible thread, but every time we repeat the act we strengthen the strand, add to it another filament, until it becomes a great cable and binds us irrevocably, thought and act.
—Orison Swett Marden (1850–1924, American writer and proponent of positive thinking)

Each of us has a spark of life inside us, and our highest endeavor ought to be to set off that spark in one another.
—Kenny Ausubel (social entrepreneur, author, journalist, and filmmaker)

For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin—real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way. Something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life.
—Father Alfred D’Souza

Friendship with God comes not from striving after faith but from resting in the faithful one.
—Hudson Taylor (1832–1905, British Christian missionary to China)

3. Digging Deeper

PERSONAL STORY

Share a story about how your personal identity (or a friend’s) has changed through life. Here’s an example:

I remember the first time I saw a Worthington High School varsity wrestling match. It was unlike anything I’d ever seen. I’d seen junior high wrestling tournaments, freshman matches, even pro wrestling. But when those guys came out and did their precision warm-ups, it was just different. To me, it was awe-inspiring! I desperately wanted to be one of those 13 varsity wrestlers (there are 14 on a team now) and was willing to pay the price to be a part of that team—whatever that price was. In college I had a similar experience when I showed up at a fraternity house and they showed me around their place. This was the biggest house on one of the largest campuses in the nation. They had everything a college freshman could want. I immediately wanted to be a pledge. I needed to live there.

For some people, it’s all about joining a certain group of friends—being identified as a member of the band, squad, team, or club. There’s a subtle change. Yesterday I was John Smith; today I’m the first chair in the band! When I come to your house, a member of the *high school band* is now in your presence!

So the obvious question for me is, Where do I find my identity now that I’m a little older, maybe a half step wiser? I’ve known a few friends who still revolve every conversation around “the good old days.” I don’t want to be one of those guys. You talk to them, and it’s like every conversation

has to eventually roll around to that big game where he scored the big touchdown. Okay, but what's going on in your life today? Who are you now? What are you all about? I don't want to be the frat brother, former wrestler. I want my identity to be grounded in my faith. When I walk into your house, a child of God who loves him and others is now in your presence. Someone who is loved on a level that none of us will completely understand is here with us! Jesus loves this guy! The guy in my house!

Continue with—

Can you imagine what would happen if the First Lady of the United States came to your house? That's all anybody in town would talk about for days. The president's wife was right here—in our town, at your house.

Well, I can go one better. As a child of God, each of you outranks the wife of the president. Your identity should be deeply rooted in your relationship with God, because frankly, it can't get any better than that. No matter how many touchdowns you score or clubs you join—it's just not on a par with knowing Jesus, up close and personal.

Continue—

In John 14:10-16, Jesus talked about what it looks like when the identity of one of his followers is truly rooted in him. He said—

“Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever....”

Forget what you see when you look in the mirror—which is you, with all your limitations and shortcomings and failures and even the bad-hair day you're having right now. Forget all that and dream for a minute about the possibility of Jesus' words: “[You] will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

Picture seeing *that* in the mirror! You—someone who does greater things than Jesus did. Yeah, you! Someone whom Jesus himself answers when you pray!

But that last verse—it's such a big “if”! “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” It's almost like Jesus was saying that if we really loved him—I mean *really, really* loved him—we'd follow him with our words and actions. Almost. Well, wait a minute, that's *exactly* what he was saying! As people who cherish his words, as followers who are flipped out by his presence, we are

OPTIONAL MIX-INS

You may want to mention a few facts:

-We're picking up the action right smack in the middle of Jesus' farewell address to his disciples.

-This is one of Jesus' most critical and intense conversations with his disciples—a conversation full of teaching, assurances, and commands to help us live out our faith in a fallen world.

-Jesus frequently said why he was having this conversation with his disciples: Tough times were coming, and his words were words of life to get them (and us!) through the tough times.

-The rather bleak picture Jesus painted for his disciples isn't too different from the picture we live in today: People were antagonistic toward Jesus and trying to demean and persecute his followers.

in awe of his love. Well, then, why wouldn't we follow him? Obey what he's commanded? Why wouldn't we be people who say, "Jesus, you're the one who speaks words of life! You're the one who gives hope. You're the one who loves us more than anyone else. So when you say 'Jump,' we won't even ask, 'How high?' We'll just start bouncing. You're the *man!* We will absolutely follow you for the rest of our days."

Jesus made us some awesome promises in this passage—things we can count on when we follow him that way:

We can do greater things than he did.

He will do what we ask in his name.

4. Taking It Inward

Continue—

Now before you go dismissing these promises as wild exaggerations, take a minute to imagine them in your life. First, think about doing greater things than Jesus did. Do you know that when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, the disciples brought more people into the kingdom of God *in one day* than in the entire three years of Jesus' ministry? You personally, with the help of the Holy Spirit, might be able to introduce more people to the kingdom of God than Jesus himself did while here on earth! How about that? And Jesus didn't even have the Internet!

Now think for a minute about Jesus doing whatever we ask when we ask in his name. You can study for a long time what it means to ask "in Jesus' name," and you still may not have a full understanding of what that means. But simply put, asking in Jesus' name means to pray in a way that Jesus would pray. By taking Jesus' name, you're praying as if you were Jesus. Frankly, I don't usually pray this way. I pray as if I'm the one praying, which of course, I am—but you get the point. I need to pray the prayers Jesus would pray, not my own selfish wants and desires. This, of course, means I need to know what Jesus would pray, which means spending time with Jesus and his words, being familiar with Jesus' prayers and with the things that break Jesus' heart.

Here's the bottom line: Jesus has given us some fantastic promises if we'd only follow and obey him. The promise of doing greater things than he did. The promise of receiving what we ask for when we pray like Jesus would pray. When you and I are facing the tough world around us—a world that's sometimes antagonistic to our faith and hostile to Jesus—what more do we need?

5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

Think for a few seconds about these three things:

1. the challenges in your life right now
2. the temptations that keep snagging you
3. relationships that try to pull you away from your Christian faith

Now do what Jesus said to do. Close your eyes and picture yourself looking in a mirror. Picture the person in that mirror as someone who has faith in Jesus. Picture yourself obeying what he said. Really lock in on that picture. Now open your eyes, and go out and be the person in the mirror. Be someone who has faith in Jesus. Be someone who obeys whatever he says. This is what activates your ability to do greater things than he did and to pray in his name.