

LIFE Meeting

Gender Stereotypes in Society

October 7, 2015

1. Ice breaker: Mail Call

2. Opening Prayer

Anna

3. Large Group: Brain Games Clip/What society says

Viveca

4. Small Group

5. Large Group: Videos

Natalie

6. Closing Prayer

Michael

Ice Breaker

Mail Call

Have everyone sit on the floor or on chairs in a circle with no gaps. One person stands in the middle of the circle and shares one thing about themselves, and then says (for example), "Mail Call for everybody who is wearing green." All the people who have something green on have to get up and switch seats with another person who is wearing green. It's similar to musical chairs. The goal of the person in the middle is to get a chair and force another person to be in the middle. One rule is that you cannot sit in a chair immediately beside yourself, nor can you sit down on your own chair.

Note: Mail Call can be for things other than colors or clothes, of course, such as, "Mail Call for everyone who...has a brother...has a cat...likes to eat liver...sleeps on the left side of the bed...has been to Washington, DC...feels hungry." Be as creative as you like!

Opening Prayer

Louisa Wendorff Pretty Hurts/Try/Who You Are Mash Up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTPlclw95Jk>

Pretty hurts, shine the light on whatever's worse

Perfection is a disease of a nation, pretty hurts, pretty hurts

Pretty hurts, shine the light on whatever's worse

Trying to fix something but you can't fix what you can't see

It's the soul that needs the surgery .

Put your make-up on

Get your nails done

Curl your hair

Run the extra mile

Keep it slim so they like you, do they like you?

Wait a second,

Why, should you care, what they think of you

When you're all alone, by yourself, do you like you?

Do you like you?

You don't have to try so hard

You don't have to, give it all away

You just have to get up, get up, get up, get up

You don't have to change a single thing.

You don't have to try, try, try, try.

Pretty hurts, shine the light on whatever's worse

Perfection is a disease of a nation, pretty hurts, pretty hurts

Pretty hurts, shine the light on whatever's worse

Trying to fix something but you can't fix what you can't see

It's the soul that needs the surgery .

Blonder hair, flat chest

TV says bigger is better

South beach, sugar free

Vogue says thinner is better

Just another stage

Pageant the pain away

This time I'm gonna take the crown

Without falling down, down, down .

Don't lose who you are, in the blur of the stars

Seeing is deceiving, dreaming is believing

It's okay not to be okay.

Pretty hurts, shine the light on whatever's worse

Perfection is a disease of a nation, pretty hurts, pretty hurts.

You don't have to try so hard

You don't have to, give it all away.

Reflection:

This song spoke to me the first time I heard it. Girls are the gender that are told they have to look pretty. And to society this means wearing makeup all the time, having the perfect girly looking body, and always wearing the right clothes. Boys have this too but of course they are told they have to have masculine traits, like being perfectly fit and that it isn't favorable to express deep emotions. Perfection is the disease of a nation. Girls have to do only girl things. boys can only do boy things. why change who you are for other people? just be you.

Large Group

Intro to the meeting

I'll Make a Man Out of You by Donny Osmond from "Mulan"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSS5dEeMX64>

Let's get down to business

To defeat the Huns

Did they send me daughters when I asked
for sons?

You're the saddest bunch I ever met

But you can bet before we're through

Mister, I'll make a man out of you

Tranquil as a forest

But on fire within

Once you find your center

You are sure to win

You're a spineless, pale, pathetic lot

And you haven't got a clue

Somehow I'll make a man out of you

I'm never gonna catch my breath

Say goodbye to those who knew me

Boy, was I a fool in school for cutting gym

This guy's got 'em scared to death

Hope he doesn't see right through me

Now I really wish that I knew how to swim

(Be a man)

You must be swift as a coursing river

(Be a man)

With all the force of a great typhoon

(Be a man)

With all the strength of a raging fire

Mysterious as the dark side of the moon

Time is racing toward us till the Huns arrive

Heed my every order and you might survive

You're unsuited for the rage of war

So pack up, go home you're through

How could I make a man out of you?

Tonight's meeting is all about gender stereotypes and roles in society. This song from the Disney movie Mulan focus' on the leader of an army trying to make his troops "manly." He says that to beat the Huns they have to be swift and strong. At one point he even makes a comment about if they were girls. This meeting is here to focus on why we make those type of comments. Why is calling them girls offensive? I hope that tonight we all break stereotypes and make sure we embrace everyone as equals. I hope that we all realize everyone has their own special God given talents and no matter what gender we are, we should use those talents to the best of our ability.

- Brain Games movie clips
 - Brain Games
 - Season 2, episode 7
 - 2:00-9:40

Reflection:

As you can see, boys and girls are wired completely differently from each other. It is not right or wrong to have certain attributes that are primarily boy or girl traits, it's just the way we are. It's important for all of us to know that there is a difference between us, and to acknowledge the God given abilities that He has given us because we are either a boy or a girl. Now Viveca is going to show us a slide show telling us more about genders.

- PPT on Gender Roles—Viveca

Reflection before Small Group:

Viveca has showed us a lot of what people assume of men and women just based on their gender. So often people are put into stereotypical groups, none being more generic than either being a masculine or feminine. Now that you have seen the generic assumptions that come with each role do you feel that you often find yourself agreeing with these assumptions? Do you find yourself making judgements when you see others who do not demonstrate the qualities society expects them to have? This is one thing we hope to change at today's meeting, how we see each other. We hope that you will be inspired to take your time and get to know someone before making assumptions on their personality and how they 'should' be. You should give people time to show their true colors and not make fun of others or put them down because they don't conform to societies idea of what they should be, because after all, none of us really fit into just one of these generic categories, we all show traits of both sides and that is a good thing. Dear God, please help us to not to judge others based on stereotypes, but to get know them instead. Please guide us to help others to be strong in times of struggle knowing that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Small Group

Prayer

Hold hands and interlock fingers so that all the weaknesses in the group are covered by each other's strengths.

Genesis 2:18-22

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

Reflection:

God realized that we cannot be alone. We need to people to talk to and enjoy occasions with. We need someone who will be there for us no matter what. But we cannot all be the same. God made man and God made women so we can live in peace and harmony with one another. And although we may be different, have different talents and different abilities, we still need one another. Because with one we cannot have the other.

Activity:

1. Introduction: Defining the occupations.
 - Hand out copies of "Occupation Checklist" to individual students.
 - Read off the listed occupations.
 - Describe any jobs that students might not be familiar with.
2. Have students fill out checklist, by circling matching jobs and careers to 'Male,' 'Female,' or 'Both' by circling the correct response.
3. Poll the students on each occupation and write the result on the master checklist.
 - Which group "male" or "female" had the largest number?
 - Which jobs require working with people? Which group had the larger number?
 - Which jobs have the most "status," and, of those, how many are designated "males" and how many "females?"
 - Which jobs offer the most salary potential, and, of those, how many are designated "males" and how many "females?"
 - Which jobs require the most/least amount of education, and, of those, how many are designated "males" and how many "females?" Will also require research.
4. Discuss any issues concerning gender as they arise. The focus should always be steered to "WHY?" Why are some jobs traditionally gender designated? Why is there an inequity of wage and status along gender lines?

More Questions:

- How are masculinity and femininity represented in the media?
- What are some tv shows or movies that show these gender stereotypes?
- What specific images and words contribute to our understanding of what masculinity and femininity mean?
- Does the media make assumptions about what men/boys like and how they (should) behave? Are there similar assumptions made about women/girls?

- What impact do such media representations have on real-life opportunities and possibilities offered men and women in their personal and professional lives?
- Is it healthy to show emotions and are guys less “healthy” than women?
- What kind of Halloween costumes come to mind when thinking of girls vs. boys?

Large Group

Discussions over small groups

- What were the main topics discussed in small groups?
- What was something that was said in small groups that you want to share with the large group?
- Did anything that was said stick out in your mind?
- Did anything that was said open your eyes to choosing, making or losing friends?

We're going to show a video about stereotypes about what it means to “be a man” or to “be a girl” in society. The video does have a cuss word in it but we know that we are all mature here, so just a reminder to be mature and respectful and act appropriately please.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2Glu5ZpnTM>

Questions about video:

- Is there anything that someone wants to add onto the video?
- If there was a formula to making friends, do you think they would be genuine friends?
- What are good ways to make friends?

Closing Prayer

Greater by MercyMe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXI0B4iMLuU>

Hold hands and interlock fingers so that all the weaknesses in the group are covered by each other's strengths.

Bring your tired
Bring your shame
Bring your guilt
Bring your pain
Don't you know that's not your name
You will always be much more to me

He's Greater, He's Greater

There'll be days I lose the battle
Grace says that it doesn't matter
Cause the cross already won the war
He's Greater, He's Greater

Everyday I wrestle with the voices
That keep telling me I'm not right
But that's alright

I am learning to run freely
Understanding just how he sees me
And it makes me love him more and more
He's Greater, He's Greater

**Cause I hear a voice and he calls me
redeemed
When others say I'll never be enough
And greater is the One living inside of me
Than he who is living in the world
In the world, In the world
And greater is the One living inside of me
Than he who is living in the world**

There'll be days I lose the battle
Grace says that it doesn't matter
Cause the cross already won the war
He's Greater, He's Greater

I am learning to run freely
Understanding just how he sees me
And it makes me love him more and more
He's Greater, He's Greater
He who is living the world

Bring your doubts
Bring your fears
Bring your hurt
Bring your tears
There'll be no condemnation here
You are holy, righteous and redeemed

Every time I fall
There'll be those who will call me
A mistake
Well that's ok

Woah ohhh ohhhh ohhh
Woah ohhh ohhhh ohhh
He's Greater, He's Greater
Woah ohhh ohhhh ohhh
Woah ohhh ohhhh ohhh
He's Greater, He's Greater

There'll be days I lose the battle
Grace says that it doesn't matter
Cause the cross already won the war
He's Greater, He's Greater

I am learning to run freely
Understanding just how he sees me
And it makes me love him more and more

This song talks about how everyone has flaws and we all get knocked down in life from people who do not see and respect us for who we are, but those people do not matter because we have a greater voice living inside of us, the voice of God, and it tells us that we are holy, righteous, and redeemed. Sadly the world will continue to categorize people under the stereotypes we have talked about today but if you ever find yourself feeling downdraught because of that just remember that you are perfect the way you are because as Genesis says, you are created in the image and likeness of God. This means that you are the way God intended you to be and you should be proud of that. So I encourage you to go out after tonight and help the rest of our community realize this when they face the same struggles.