

Group Check-In

Noticing Spiritual Growth

Check in with the group around growing in Christ (remind of purpose to *notice each other's spiritual growth*).

- How have we been intentional this week? Ups and downs?

Care

Check in with the group on any needs for care and prayer (remind of purpose to *care when tough things happen*)

- How can we support and pray for you? (Write them down!)
- (Re-call any shared items from previous weeks, ask about them)

Pray

Pray for group members as needs arise.

Discussion Questions

Intro

- How often do you think about the fact that you are *constantly* representing God as a human being? (Like it or not, it's happening. This is scary thought!)
- Who are the different "audiences" of your life? What do they learn about God by the way you live?

Five Areas of Image-Bearing

The sermon this week touched on five areas in which we are like God and represent God as image-bearing humans: *Spiritually, Rationally, Socially, Morally, Positional Authority*.

Choose 1-2 of the following areas and discuss the questions for them:

- Spiritually
 - Do you engage your spiritual life on a regular basis as you do with your physical life (through food, water, rest, exercise, etc).
 - Ask a few people in the group to share examples of how they engage their spiritual life in order to learn from and encourage each other
- Rationally (reason, logic, etc)
 - How are we distinct from animals in this regard?
 - Do you care for and utilize your mind in order to glorify God? How can you do this?
- Socially
 - "God is relationship, and we have been created to reflect that relationship-ness."¹ What is the status of your relationships...
 - ...with God?
 - ...with Others?
 - Are there any relationships where you need to do some investment work? Some repair work? What would that look like for you?

¹ Darrell W. Johnson, *Story of All Stories: Genesis 1-11*. (Regent College Publishing, 2019), 30.

- Morally
 - Read Eph 4:24 as a group. How is *your* conduct with regards to righteousness and holiness?
 - Further to that, how are you standing up for what's right when others' conduct is unjust?
- Positional Authority
 - Read Gen 1:26 as a group. We have been given dominion/authority over creation. Do you realize this?
 - How can you assert authority (like Jesus) in your own life?

Look to Jesus as an example.

Jesus *completely* obeyed God and fulfilled what it means to be God's image-bearer (see Heb 4:15; Col 1:15-20).

- How did Jesus exemplify each of the five areas listed above? In other words, how was *Jesus* like God:
 - Spiritually?
 - Rationally?
 - Socially?
 - Morally?
 - With authority?
- Jesus was dependent upon the Father and the Holy Spirit's working in him (see Luke 4:1, 18; 5:16; 6:12; Acts 10:38).
 - If we have access to the same Holy Spirit that Jesus did (Rom 8:11, 15; Jn 14:26, 16:7), how does this change our perspective on living for Christ?
 - Does your life reflect this empowered kind of living? How can you develop it more?