

Message-based Study

Video is available online at messages.visitccc.com

Connection

What is one physical trait or character trait you really like about yourself?

Cheer and Challenge

How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.

Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

1. Read the creation story in Genesis 1:1-31. Notice all the times God said His creations were "good" and what He said is "very good". Write what is "very good" here.

2. How should God's declaration toward created humankind shape how we see ourselves?

3. What influences does our culture have on the way we see ourselves?

Why Are We Here?

4. Read Isaiah 43:5-7, Ephesians 1:12-14, and 1 Corinthians 11:31. What do these verses tell us about our purpose?

5. Revelation 4:11 says, "You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased." Speak or sing this verse to remind yourself of God's beauty and worthiness as YOUR creator.

How Are We Made?

6. Read Genesis 1:26-27. What do you think it means to be made in God's image?

Use these areas of self to get you thinking about how you are like God's image: moral, spiritual, mental, relational, physical, creative abilities.

7. How should our likeness to God influence
- the way we live?

- the way we think about ourselves?

- the way we treat others?

Why Does It Matter?

With **God** - you can have a relationship with Him, you can glorify Him and represent God to others.

With your **self** - gives you a right understanding of who you are; only humans are made in God's image.

With **others** - shapes the way you treat others.

Commitment

As you think about your identity as made in the image of God, write **one specific way** you will glorify God, change the way you think about yourself, or treat others differently.

"I will _____."



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

Begin with prayer - pray for someone you know that needs to hear that they are made in God's image.

Continue Digging Deeper

1. **Read** each of the Bible verses listed below and next to each one write down what you learn about your identity in Christ or what you have in Christ as a result of choosing to follow Him. If you have not yet made that decision, email groups@visitccc.com as we would love to share more with you.

Romans 8:1-4

II Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 2:18

Colossians 1:13-14

II Timothy 1:7

Hebrews 4:16

Romans 8:16-17

Reflect:

- If your identity is not being defined by who God says you are, then what or who is defining you?
- The world offers many ways to find identity through work, social media status, words of friends or family members, success/achievements, body image, etc. While these are not bad things they are not a stable foundation for your identity. Read Romans 12:1-2. How can you avoid being conformed to “the world” or having your identity defined by the wrong place or person?

2. Listen to the podcast, *“Practices to Anchor Your Identity in Christ”* with Jen Wilkin, Trillia Newbell and Jen Pollack to learn more about identity (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/tgc-podcast/practices-anchor-identity-christ/>).

3. Explore Psalm 8 and discover the majesty of God and consider what it means to give Him glory in your everyday life. If you enjoy art of any kind, create something that portrays the words and themes found in Psalm 8. We would love to see your creation so please send a picture to groups@visitccc.com.

- How does Psalm 8 begin and end? What is the significance of the name, “Lord”?
- List out a few synonyms for the word “majestic.” How does this help you understand what it means that the Lord is majestic?
- What do you think the phrase “you have set your glory above the heavens” mean?
- God as creator is highlighted in verse 3. Look up a fun fact about the world and use it as a way to spark wonder in you. Take a moment to marvel at how detailed and creative God truly is.
- What does it mean for us to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 1:20)? What does this look like practically in our lives?
- What can you learn about the relationship between God and man? How does knowing this shape your identity?

Optional Resources:

- *“What does it mean to glorify God?”* (<https://www.gotquestions.org/glorify-God.html>)
- Listen to “Joyous Celebration - Psalm 8~Live@Cape Town” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuCMoTCFEQc>)
- Listen to “Psalm 8” by Shane & Shane (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Bfgc6XWC6I>)