

Connection

Who is the most unlikely friend you have ever had? In what ways were you different from that person, and how did that friendship change you?

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

Sin has Tarnished the Image of God

1. Read Genesis 1:26-28. In what ways, do you believe, are we made in God's image?

2. In the perfect setting of the Garden of Eden, something went wrong. Read Genesis 3:8-13. God called to Adam and Eve, "Where are you?" "What have you done?" Why did God ask these questions - what reality was He trying to make them face?

How is **pride** at the center of all sin?

How does **blame** perpetuate sin?

Pride is a Distortion of the Image of God

3. In Genesis 4:3-10 what is the source of the hatred Cain felt? Trace the progression of sin in his life.

Racism is an Affront to the Image of God

4. How would you define "racism"?

How is the racism that is evident in our culture today connected to pride?

5. How can we as Christians rise above racism, according to Romans 12:2.

In practical terms, how might you do this?

6. II Corinthians 5:10 emphasizes our personal responsibility for how we live in this world. Take a moment to meditate on what this verse says. What truth do you need to remember from this verse?

In your corner of the world, what can you do to help undo the influence of racism?

Respecting the Image of God in Everyone

7. Where in nature do you see God evidencing His love of variety?

What does this tell you about how He views people as well?

8. Read Acts 17:22-31, and as you read note two things:

- What is said here about God:

- What is said here about people:

Commitment

Read the familiar story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, noticing how this Samaritan man took the time to **see** and **care for** someone of a different race. Where is a place in your life that you encounter people who are different from you? What will you do to show honor to these people who are made in God's image?

"I will _____."



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

It is easy to listen to those who are *like* us. This week, look for an opportunity to **Listen with Care** to someone who is different than you. If there is an opening, let them know they are valuable to God.

Continue Digging Deeper

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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>)