

Message-based Study

Video is available online at messages.visitccc.com

Connection

Help us get to know you! What are three adjectives that describe 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

***Understanding Ourselves: We bear the image of God,
But something tragic has happened that has distorted that image.***

1. ***We are like God in that we are...***

...Relational (Hosea 11:8)

...Rational (Genesis 6:5)

...Volitional (Ephesians 3:3-4)

...Emotional (John 2:15, 11:33)

Read the verses in parenthesis above and describe how we are like God in each area.

2. ***We are unlike God in that we are...***

...Dependent

As we struggle through this life, we need help with our brokenness. Read Numbers 21:8-9. How did the Israelites find healing in this story? Why do you think God decided to work in this way?

As Christians, we look to Jesus to bring us healing. Read John 3:14-16. In practical terms, how do we implement what this verse is urging us to do?

3. The four qualities we share with God have been distorted in our culture, as people seek to be independent from God. How have you seen this occur in each of these areas?

...Relational

...Rational

...Volitional

...Emotional

4. Let's look back at God's original design, as explained in Genesis 1:26-27

*"Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."
So God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them."*

In the above verses, circle the features which God wove into humanity at the point of creation.

5. Male and female complement each other, much like the Trinity does. List some ways you have seen men and women complement one another.

Why is there a struggle around gender in our culture?

Commitment

Remember this: each of us is a "struggler" living among other "strugglers." As we follow Christ, we strive to respond to others the way Jesus would. Based on what you read in the following verses, write a statement about how Christ-followers should emulate Jesus' example as we interact with people of our culture:

Jesus Relates - Hebrews 4:15

Jesus Brings Healing - Isaiah 53:5

Jesus Accepts - John 6:37

Jesus Brings Freedom - John 8:36

Jesus Gives us Victory - Galatians 2:20

Which of the statements you wrote above will you choose to commit yourself to more intentionally?

"I will _____."



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

It is tempting to steer clear of others who struggle in ways that are different from how you struggle. **Begin with prayer.** Journal a prayer here, asking Jesus to help you live-out what you wrote on the line above:

Continue Digging Deeper

1. Write out Ephesians 2:10 and practice memorizing it.

Optional Resource: Listen to "Psalm 8" by Shane & Shane (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Bfgc6XWC6I>)

2. To learn more about gender identity, deepen your understanding and seek to love well explore, "*The Center for Faith, Sexuality & Gender*" led by Dr. Preston Sprinkle. There are several resources available. Visit <https://www.centerforfaith.com> for more information.

3. ***"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in."***
~ ***George Washington Carver***

How often do you stop to think of God as creator? Pause each day and give thanks and honor to the One who created all things.

- **Day 1- Creation & Identity:** Read Genesis 1 and write down what you observe about God's character through creation. Why is it essential for us to recognize God as our Creator? How does this acknowledgment effect our identity and how we live?
- **Day 2 - Creation & Light:** Watch the "The Creator" ~ Spoken Word Visual by Charles D. King (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gl_jP8LQs4). What stood out to you? God started by creating light. Read John 1:1-5 and think about how these verses relate to the truth that Jesus is light and brings life.
- **Day 3- Creation & God's Glory:** Throughout the day listen to some songs that remind you that God is the creator of all things and you are designed to bring Him glory in all you do and say. If able, take a picture of something you enjoy in creation and send it to someone with a song. Song suggestions: "The Maker" by Chris August, How Great Thou Art by various artist, King of Glory by Michael W. Smith ft. CeCe Winans
- **Days 4-6 Creation & God's Word:** Complete the 3 day Bible reading plan: <https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/3481-creation-devotions-from-time-of-grace/day/1>. If are not able to do the reading plan, use a concordance or online Bible resource to read verses with the themes of ,"create" or "glory".
- **Day 7 Rest** - Using a scale of 1-10 (10 being the most restful), how would you rate yourself in your ability to rest each week? Read Psalm 62:1-2. How would resting,