



FOUNDRY GROUP GUIDE

Week of September 19, 2021

Season 1: Identity

“What does it mean to be made in God's Image?”

[Missed Community Night? Click here to watch last week's Message.](#)

OPEN WITH PRAYER

Creator God, by your Living Word you have called every one of us good and worthy of your love. We ask your Holy Spirit to open our eyes, that we may see each other in the same way you see us. Open our minds, that we may know each other in the same way you know us. Open our hearts, that we may love each other in the same way that you love us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who shows us what it means to be truly human. Amen.

INTRODUCE YOURSELVES

Who are you? (Name, where you're from, what you do, etc.)
How did you end up here? (What brought you to the Foundry?)

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26–27

1 John 4:9–12

DISCUSSION

Sometimes, it's hard to see God's image in our own selves. Who is someone in your life that you think reflects God's image really clearly? What is it about them that allows you to recognize God in them?

DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Some think that God created the world by withdrawing part of God's self to "make space" for something else to exist. This idea emphasizes the generosity and sacrificial love of God for creation.

Share a time that somebody "made space" for you, showing you generosity and a self-giving love? What impact did that have on you?

Rev. Dinah Shelly reminded us that "it really, truly isn't my good behavior that makes me the image of God. I just am the image of God...and so are hordes of other people."

How do you try to prove, earn, or validate your identity as one made in God's image? Why is it so difficult to believe that God loves you simply because you are made by God?

The late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once said that "the greatest religious challenge is: Can I see God's image in one who is not in my image – whose color, class, culture or creed is different from mine?"

What is one thing you can do this week that recognizes and honors God's image in someone who is not like you?

CHECK IN

Take some time to share what's going on in our lives (talk about the good/bad, celebrations/concerns, God sightings & prayer requests).

The group facilitator should make note of any prayer requests that are shared and send them out to the group after the meeting for group members to pray over throughout the week.

WRAP UP

Mark Your Calendars -

- Next Foundry gatherings: (Chicken N Pickle - September 24th, 6-8pm. Community Night - September 28th, 6:30pm at Alamo Heights UMC)
- Discuss the next day & time your Foundry Group will meet

Close with prayer!