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PARTNERING WITH GOD

SESSION THREE: Image of God



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Image of God

Starter

- What influences the way people see themselves?
- What influences the way we see other people in society?
- If people saw themselves as made in the image of God, how would this affect the way we see ourselves?

Video discussion

- Watch the video. What struck you from the video?
- What questions does the video raise for you?
- What did you agree/disagree with? Why?

Bible discussion

- Read the following passages. What do they tell you about people and the image of God?
'God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them'. (GEN 1:27)
'The son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word'. (HEBREWS 1:3)
'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation . . . For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him . . . ' (COLOSSIANS 1:15, 19)
'With the tongue we praise our Lord and father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness / image'. (JAMES 3:9)
'And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit'. (2 CORINTHIANS 3:18)
- In what ways do you think we are made in the image of God?
- How did Jesus treat people as made 'in the image of God'? How was this different from the religious leaders of his time?

Action

- If you see all people made in the image of God, how would this affect the way you relate and engage with other people? How do you see and relate to people who are different to you?
- How do you and your faith community reflect the image of God into the world?
- How would this teaching about the image of God impact the way you and your faith community participate in the mission of God?

Prayer

- Thank God for the ways that you are made in God's image and ask that you would see yourself in the image of God and reflect that image to others. Ask that you would better see and relate to others as made 'in the image of God.'

'There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilisation—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.'

(C.S. Lewis, Weight Of Glory, p. 45-46)

Recommended reading

Edge, Lynette and Morgan, Gregory. *Partnering with God: Being a Missional Salvationist*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2017 – especially pages 12-13 and 30-33.