

Leader Guide

Radical Hospitality: Love Neighbor: Equality

Date: October 7, 2020

Scripture: Genesis 1:26 -2:4a

Big Idea: There are many people and things in life that want to inform us how to live and act in their image, but the true image of each person is that of being made equally in the image of God.

Guide Pro Tips

1. All the ways that the world tries to form our identity (our image) are temporal and can be threatened, discarded and ignored by ourselves and others.
2. Being made in the Image of God is our permanent image. There is nothing we can do or anyone else can do to remove that image.
3. Being made in the image of God means we are God's representatives in the world. We are not gods but are called to do God's will.
4. Being made in the image of God means we have responsibility to love and care for all people and creation.
5. God loves all people in the world and has made all people in God's own image.

Gathering and Centering

Today we're going to do a reading meditation. Below you will find verse 5 from Psalm 8. We will use that as our centering verse.

God has made you a little lower than God, and crowned you with glory and honor. During your time of silent medication focus on the word Love. Love is who God is. Know that Love in you.

Take a deep breath, read verse 5 slowly. Do this twice more. Take one more slow deep breath. Say Amen.

NB: If you are together, have each person in the small group read the verse, going in a circle.

Conversation Starters

- Look at yourself in the mirror. Who do you look like? (A parent, An aunt or uncle, perhaps a brother or sister).
- Who do you act like? (For example: your personality, your attitudes, your behaviors are they like someone in your family?)

Introduction to the Big Idea

- Read Genesis 1:26 – 2:4a
- Watch video by Pastor Pam: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKUH0ft8YTk&t=31s>

Bible Study

Everyone is created in the image of God. We don't know what God looks like. The Bible tells us that God looks like Jesus. Jesus is God who was born a human birth and is God in human form. So, when we know who Jesus is we know what our lives should look like as people who bear God's image.

Read the following Bible verses, describe how Jesus loves people in these verses.

NB: If you're in person doing this study, divide the verses up among your small group!

- Matt. 4:23: *curing disease and sickness*
- Matt 18:21-22: *forgive 77 times!*
- Matt. 5:44: *love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*
- John 13: 1-5: *washes his disciples' feet; making himself a servant and them the masters.*
- John 14:27: *Jesus gives us peace!*
- How do you think Jesus would respond to people being treated unequally?

These questions are on a google form, to be filled out by each student:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYyoiIvbqX9UfxqDlxZ7VWXUYlka-vYvL9U2BO5zptqIRAvA/viewform?usp=sf_link

In person reflections and discussion:

- Does it help to know that a person you do not get along with is also made in the image of God and is loved by God as much as you are loved by God?
- Sin is a barrier to us loving as perfectly as Jesus. What barriers of sin are known to you in your life that make it difficult for you to love a particular person or group of people? Where in the world and in your life do you see sin which makes people behave as though they are loved more than some other people?

Journal Question

How does knowing that you are made in the image of God and that you are loved by God totally, and that every other person in the world is loved totally by God inform how you feel about:

- a. Yourself
- b. Other people at school
- c. People of other races
- d. Refugees
- e. LGBTQIA