

Small Group Guide: Made In His Image: The Truth About Your Worth

Overview

This guide is based on the sermon, *Made In His Image: The Truth About Your Worth* from our Sunday Service on 8/23/26. It explores what it means to be made in the image of God and how that shapes our understanding of personal value and worth. The central idea is that every person carries inherent, God-given worth -- not because of what they have done or what they look like, but because they were created by God and belong to Him. Use this guide to spark honest conversation and help group members move from simply hearing these truths to genuinely receiving them.

Key Takeaways

- Your worth is intrinsic. It was given to you by God at creation and does not have to be earned or proven.
 - Sin distorts our perception of value. When we seek our identity apart from God, we end up living in fear, shame, and hiding.
 - The world assigns value based on performance, appearance, status, and success. These standards are unreliable and leave people empty.
 - Jesus pursues the lost. The shepherd who leaves the 99 to find the one is a picture of how God sees and values every individual.
 - The cross is the clearest measure of your worth. What God was willing to give for you reveals exactly how much you mean to Him.
 - God wants you to receive the spirit of adoption, not a spirit of fear. He does not want His people merely surviving until heaven while living under shame and guilt.
-

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon opened with the illustration of a worn, aged \$100 bill that still holds its full value regardless of its history. What was your initial reaction to that image? Did it connect with you personally?
 2. Pastor Jeremy said he believes that at the root of why people struggle to serve, evangelize, or engage in community is a sense of worthlessness. Do you agree with that? Have you experienced that in your own life?
-

You Were Created With Value

3. Psalm 8:3-5 describes God crowning humanity with glory and honor -- the same God who created the moon and the stars. How does it change your perspective on yourself to consider that the Creator of the universe made you intentionally and personally?
 4. The sermon draws a distinction between two common responses to feeling worthless: either believing you have nothing to offer, or trying to heap up good deeds to earn worthiness. Which of those tendencies do you relate to more, and why?
 5. Psalm 139:13-16 speaks of God forming a person in the womb and seeing their substance before they were even fully formed. What does it mean to you that God knew you before you knew yourself?
-

Sin Distorts Our Perception of Value

6. The sermon described the progression that follows when we seek identity apart from God: doubt, disobedience, shame, hiding, blame, and fear. Where have you seen that pattern show up in your own life or in the lives of people around you?
 7. The sermon referenced statistics showing that one in five American adults has been diagnosed with a depression disorder and one in three regularly feels lonely -- even in a time when people have more ways to connect than ever. Why do you think so many people still struggle with the question of whether their life has meaning?
 8. Romans 1:21-25 describes people who exchanged the truth of God for the things of creation -- worshiping what was made rather than the One who made it. What are some things -- even good things -- that people in your community tend to look to for a sense of value or identity?
-

Jesus Restores Our Value

9. The sermon highlights several biblical figures whose worth was not determined by their condition or their failures: Hagar in the wilderness, the woman caught in adultery, Mephibosheth, Peter after his denial, and the Prodigal Son. Which of these stories resonates most with you, and what does it say to you about how God sees people?
 10. The pastor made this statement: "Your worst moments do not determine your worth." Is that easy or difficult for you to believe? What makes it hard to hold onto?
 11. Peter, after denying Jesus, went back to fishing -- back to his old life. The sermon noted that when people fall or fail, the first instinct is often to return to old patterns and old identities. Have you experienced that pull? What helped you, or what do you think would help someone in that place?
-

The Cross Reveals Your Worth

12. The sermon says that the value of something is determined by what someone is willing to pay for it, and that the cross is the clearest answer to the question of your worth. How does that reframe the way you think about your own value?
 13. Romans 5:8 says that God demonstrated His love for us while we were still sinners. What does it mean to you that God did not wait for you to get it together before He moved toward you?
 14. Pastor Jeremy described a specific moment -- a prayer night where Clay shared the meaning of his name and spoke an encouraging word over him -- that he said changed the trajectory of his life and ministry. Have you ever had a moment like that, where a truth about who you are in God became genuinely real to you? If so, what was it?
-

Receiving the Spirit of Adoption

15. Romans 8:15 contrasts a spirit of bondage and fear with a spirit of adoption. The sermon suggests that many believers have accepted Jesus as Savior but are still living under fear and shame rather than in the freedom of knowing they are truly God's children. Does that description resonate with you?
 16. The pastor said this message is "more than just an encouraging good word -- it is truth, and it can change your life." What would it look like for you personally to move from hearing this truth to actually living it out?
-

Practical Applications

- Spend time with the key scriptures. Write out Psalm 8:3-5 and Psalm 139:13-16 and place them somewhere you will see them daily. Read them slowly and let them settle in. Consider memorizing one of them by the end of the week.
- Identify what you have been looking to for worth. Take an honest inventory of the things -- possessions, roles, relationships, achievements, appearance -- that you have leaned on to feel valuable. Bring those honestly before God and ask Him to help you release them as your source of identity.
- Pray for someone who is struggling with worth. Think of one person in your life -- a friend, a family member, a coworker, a student -- who seems to be living under a weight of worthlessness or shame. Commit to praying for them this week and consider whether God might be calling you to speak an encouraging word to them.

- Go outside at night and look at the stars. The pastor shared a memory of lying in a field at midnight and letting the reality of God's love become tangible. Take a few minutes this week to do something similar. Sit outside, look up, and let the scale of creation remind you that the God who made all of it also made you and knows your name.
- Receive the spirit of adoption. If you recognize that you have been living more out of fear and shame than out of a deep sense of being God's child, take time this week to pray specifically about that. Ask God to help you receive the spirit of adoption in a real and lasting way. If it would be helpful, ask a trusted friend or your small group to pray over you.

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by praying for each person in the group to move from simply hearing these truths to genuinely receiving them. Ask God to make this more than an encouraging conversation -- ask Him to encounter each person in a way that marks their life. If anyone is comfortable sharing a specific area where they struggle with worth or value, invite the group to pray over them directly.