

Being God's Image Discussion Questions

There are more questions in this guide than we will have space for on our discussion night. Use them as a guide for your deepening thoughts as you navigate the book.

Pre-ambles Questions

1. Overall impressions of the book (rate 1-10)?
2. What were some of the things you most appreciated? Feel free to share a quote.
3. What was something you struggled or disagreed with? Feel free to share a quote.

Introduction

4. The author describes the experience of reading the Bible as entering a portal into a magical world like the wardrobe in C. S. Lewis's book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (see first paragraphs of introduction). How is reading the Bible similar to being transported to another world?
5. The author deliberately refers to God's image not as something we bear but as something we are. What do you think the differences are between bearing and being God's image?

Chapter 1

6. The author states that "one way to guard against projecting our own views on the Bible is to read it in community." What value have you gained from reading with others?

Chapter 2

7. There are at least three different ways to understand the plural pronouns in the phrases "let us," "our image," and "our likeness" in the creation account. Which view of their meaning do you find most persuasive?
8. In what ways did this chapter challenge your vision of gender roles?

Chapter 3

9. Has the book shifted your understanding of your own vocation? If so, describe how.

Chapter 4

10. Why is it important to affirm that the image of God includes all people, regardless of mental or physical capacity?

Intermission

11. How would you explain the difference between being God's image and bearing God's name?

Chapter 5

12. Why is it problematic to think of sexual intercourse as a need or a right?

Chapter 6

13. The author states, "In reality, it's good news that we can't do it all and that we don't last forever." How does the idea of living within limits encourage you?

Chapter 7

14. In what ways does Jesus' death show us what it is to be truly human?

Chapter 8

15. How can the resurrection and ascension of Jesus serve as a model for how we are to think about our own bodies?

Chapter 9

16. What practical steps could your church or school community take to prioritize care and inclusion of those with disabilities? What barriers prevent full participation?

Chapter 10

17. The author insists that creation still matters, even after Jesus returns. How would your thinking about eternity need to change to include humans' active rulership over a restored creation?

Conclusion

18. How does a lack of perceived authority lead to apathy? See under subhead How Should We Live?

19. How can you make better use of your God-given authority on this earth?

20. Since the gospel speaks to our embodied selves and transforms our communities now, what needs to change about the way we share the gospel?