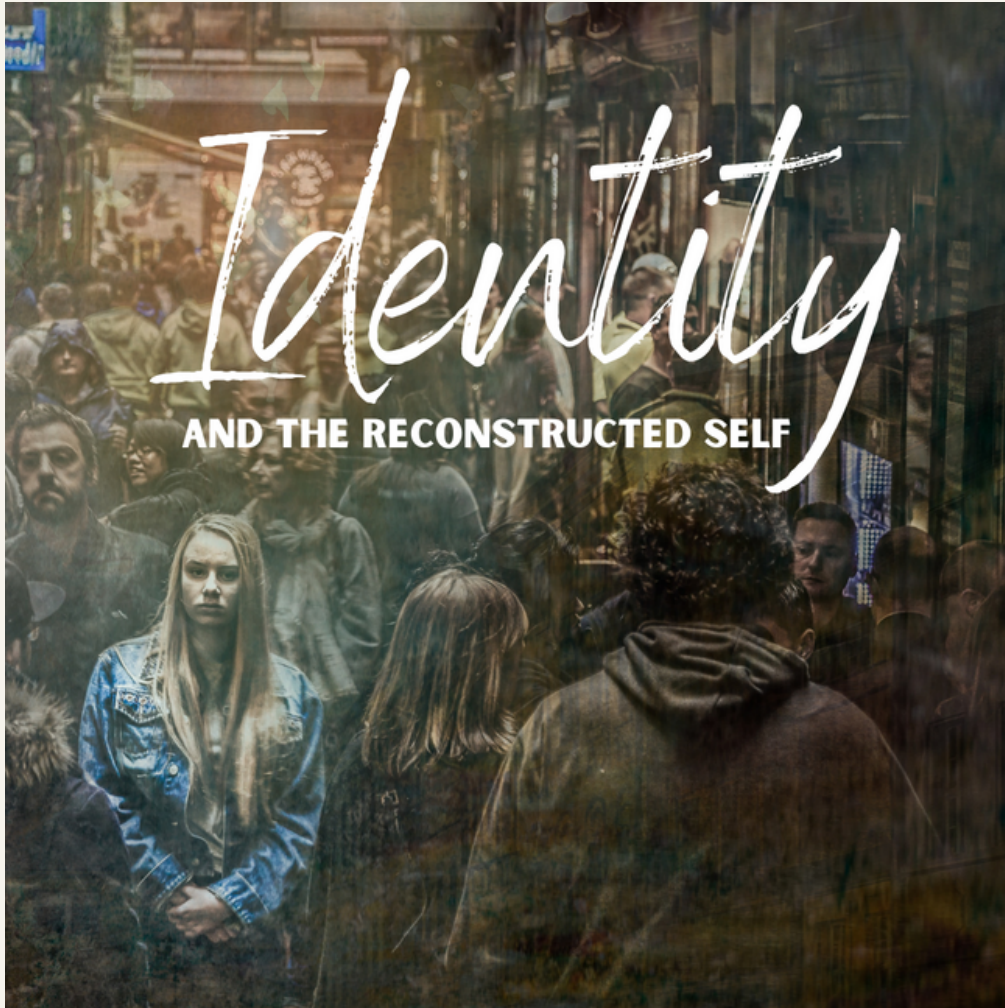


HOME GROUP STUDY

OCTOBER 25, 2020



Week 1

THE VERTICAL SELF

Getting Started

HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

Welcome to our Home Group companion study for the teaching series *IDENTITY AND THE RECONSTRUCTED SELF*. This series is about understanding our human identity from a biblical perspective.

This study is designed as a companion to Crosspoint's weekend teaching. It will help you to discuss and apply the content from the message. It also provides an option for you to dig deeper into the Word of God. You will find it uses the same core text from the sermon.

We encourage you to prayerfully read through this study before your meeting. Make changes as you see fit. You know your Home Group better than we do, so adjustments and alterations to the questions are inevitable. There is no perfect curriculum that perfectly matches every group's needs and journey.

We welcome and appreciate your feedback on this curriculum. We are a learning community and strive for continual improvement. We welcome change if it can help better serve others in their spiritual journeys. Be prepared to share your insights at the next Home Group leaders huddle, or email us.

A Basic Agenda

These are the basic elements in every Home Group meeting. You have the option of doing either the "message reflection" or the "deeper in the Word" sections. You likely won't have time to do both, especially if your group likes to share. Remember, the goal of your group is to build transformed lives, not to keep an agenda. Pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is doing. If you need to change things up, go for it.

ICEBREAKER	Take ten minutes to reconnect and get to know each other.
MESSAGE DISCUSSION	Discuss the teaching from the Sunday message. Hopefully you've all seen it!
DEEPER IN THE WORD	Dig into the core scripture passage from the weekend teaching.
REFLECTION	Talk about the meaning of the text and how it personally applies..
PRAYER	Set aside time to share needs and pray for group members.

Core Text

Genesis 1:26-31 (ESV)

26 Then God said, “Let us make man[a] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Core Text

Genesis 2:7-9, 15-18, 21-25 (ESV)

7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

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15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." 18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

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21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



I C E B R E A K E R

If your group doesn't know each other well, or if you've been apart for a while, an icebreaker is a great way to help them get reacquainted. Icebreakers also 'break the ice' and help people engage in conversation. When you share information about yourself with others, and they accept you for who you are, it helps to build trust. This trust leads to greater transparency and openness. If you want some great samples for icebreakers, check out this website: <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/leading-small-groups/small-group-icebreakers.html>

Message Discussion

QUESTIONS

You might have questions of your own to ask.

1. During the message we learned how expressive individualism believes the highest good is self-expression and self-definition which is obtained primarily by looking inward through feeling and intuition. How have you seen this played out personally or culturally?
2. "When you remove the vertical self, you are faced with a desperate attempt to create or find identity in the horizontal world." Agree or disagree? Why?
3. How does the Big God Story reconnect us with our ultimate purpose and identity?
4. Genesis 1-2 reinforces that people are physical, spiritual, social, sexual, and special. Which of these were you glad to hear about? Which might cause tension in the current cultural conversation about identity?
5. How can your group help each other when facing identity struggles?



deeper

in the word

1. What is unique about human identity when compared to all the other creatures?
2. What do you think it means to have "dominion" over the earth (vv. 26,28)? Why did God include birds, fish, and livestock as categories of dominion? How might people misuse or misunderstand this idea of dominion?
3. Humans were created in the "image and likeness" of God (vv. 26,27). How have you understood these verses? How might you reflect God's image in your everyday life?
4. God's response to his creation, prior to creating humanity, was that "it was good." After he created humans, his response changed (1:31). What does this tell us about how God values humans?
5. What do we learn about human identity from 2:15-18? Why do you think God presented the first humans with a moral choice?
6. Genesis 1:27 says that both "male and female" were created in the image of God. What does this teach us about sexual/gender identity?

P R A Y E R

How you choose to set up your prayer time is up to your group. We hope that your group finds a way to track prayer requests and to celebrate when God answers prayer. We encourage you to not only pray for the sick, but to pray for the lost as well. We all have family members and friends who are far from God.

Often times, groups rush prayer because they run out of time. We recommend that you set an alarm so that you start praying thirty-minutes before your group ends. When your group members arrive, ask them what is the latest they can stay. Count backwards one-half-hour from that time.

