

DISCOVERY GROUPS 2018



Humanity

MARCH 18- MARCH 25

Discovery Groups



Humanity

Sample

What are we?

Everyone is Welcome

Discovery groups are open to everyone to explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and share their perspective.

Opening Thought

Last Sunday after our church service we did our Breadcoin Outreach. Breadcoin is a newly formed organization in the city that partners with churches and for-profits to help try to tackle the problem of hunger and homelessness in the city. What we aimed to do was strike up conversations so that we could begin to build relationships to raise awareness about Breadcoin. Some from our team were able to hear peoples life stories, empathize, and pass coins out when appropriate so that they could be distributed among the community. Some of us struggled at first because we normally don't have interaction with people experiencing homelessness. Nevertheless, we ended up having some really genuine conversations with people and I enjoyed supporting this effort. I think of the biggest thing I was reminded of is that they are real people. They have real struggles, real issues, real joys, and real goals. They're made in the image of God, and they really matter to God.



Questions

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

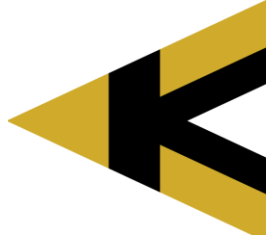
Are we good people who do bad things, or bad people who do good things?

What do you think about the concept of "original sin?"

What other questions do you have about Christianity?

What We Believe About Humanity

I Am Part Of A Church



I am part of a new church startup in the city that provides important, ageless truth and relationship in the most clear and honest way possible. We have services with teaching and liturgy rooted in ancient Christian tradition as we seek to know God and be good neighbors. We believe the Christian faith should not be first defined by its limits, but rather by its central message.

The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are historic confessions that demonstrate the heart of the Christian faith. Particular to this conversation, we believe a few things about humanity, most importantly these three things:

Created in the Image of God

When God creates mankind, he creates them in his image (Genesis 1:26). To be made in the image of God means a variety of things: we are representatives of God in a unique way, we have souls, and we have the ability to worship and comprehend God. We are important. All human beings are exceptional, and we matter to God. Contrary to some philosophical belief, we have a very special place in the universe. We have been endowed by our Creator with real inherent dignity – not contingent upon anything except his good will. Human rights, the Declaration of Independence, Modern Hospitals, and concern for the disabled, vulnerable, and infants all find their origin in the reality of human beings being made in the image of God.

Imperfect

A lot of people forget that while we are all made in the Image of God, we live in a broken world filled with imperfect people. We are those imperfect people! We have things like maniacs who shoot up schools, cancer, racism, sickness, mental illness, sex trafficking, and so on. We believe the Bible as it affirms original sin (the first sin) and original corruption (sin spreads like a virus). Where there was order there is now chaos in a variety of degrees.

Redeemable

Humans are able to be redeemed from their imperfect and wayward state. The story of Christmas and Easter is all about how God became human in order to redeem humanity. To save and heal us. Jesus Christ is the “2nd Adam,” the Son of God, and the perfect image of God according to the book of Hebrews. When someone is united to Jesus in a real spiritual way, they are redeemed.

Suggested Reading

Anthony Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*

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Opening Thought

Group Facilitator provides an introduction or lead-in pertaining to this week's topic: _____

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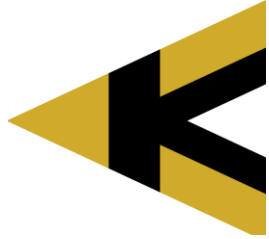
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