

**Week 3 Discussion Guide**

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,[a] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.– Genesis 3:6*

**Intro Questions:**

* Share an example of how individualistic our culture is.
* What are some of the potential; pitfalls of seeking our identity from a purely individualized frame of mind.

**Key Passages:**

* Genesis 1:26 (Core Passage)
* Ephesians 1

What stood out to you in relation to this week’s topic as you read Ephesians 1?

* Psalm 8:4-5, Psalm 139:13-14, Hebrews 2:6-8

What came to mind as you meditated on these verses this week?

Did God challenge you through anything in these verses?

**Group Discussion:**

* Answer the question “Who are you?” How much of your answer is about you as an individual, and how much is about the relationships that form you?
* Can the things that define you be taken away and, if so, what happens when they are removed from your life?
* What are some things we could recognize and live out through our Christian community in the church? How could that change our experience with God and each other?
* What is our culture’s view on individualism vs community? How does it affect the way we think, feel, and act?
* How does the church (people) build into you? Are you comfortable receiving help, advice, or being challenged by your Christian community or do you struggle with receiving from them? Why do you think that is?
* What are some “normal” activities that reveal God’s nature to us? Choose one that you will intentionally recognize as a spiritual activity for at least one day.
* What one simple act could you practice this week to “rule” God’s creation as his steward (manager) in the world.
* Because we are made in the image of God, what responsibilities do we have to the environment? What responsibilities do we have to other humans?
* Why should we care about creation now if God is going to destroy it all and make a new earth one day?

**Action Steps / Application**

Share what you will do to carry out the following action steps for this week.

* On Page 18, you were asked to identify one area of your life where you’re living too individualistically and then invite someone into that area of your life.
* Identify one of the characteristics of God, discussed in the sermon: Art, Time, Meals, or Language… that you could use this week to create a bit of heaven here on earth. Don’t race past this challenge. Calendar it! Choose a time, a place, a people, where you are going to exercise part of your divine nature for communal improvement.
* How do you think you might grow more in God’s image if we were to make this a regular habit?