



## **Imago Dei Week 1 Group Leader Guide**

### **RECAP**

Dr. Chip Dodd's sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing our inherent value as God's creations, despite our flaws. He discusses the significance of emotional honesty, surrendering to God's design, and the necessity of connection and community to truly experience fulfillment and spiritual growth.

### **GETTING STARTED**

What's one thing you remember doing when you were a kid that made you feel really connected to someone else?

### **LIVING OUT THE TRUTH**

1. Reflecting on Genesis 1:27, how does understanding that we are created in the image of God (Imago Dei) impact your view of yourself and others?
2. Considering Psalm 8, what does it mean to you that God has established His strength through infants and children? How can we apply this understanding in our daily lives?
3. In Matthew 13, Jesus speaks of the need for the seed's shell to die for it to produce a harvest. What 'shells' in your life need to be shed for you to grow spiritually?
4. Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 talks about receiving comfort from God in our troubles to comfort others. Can you share a time when you felt God's comfort and how that enabled you to support someone else?
5. How does Paul's warning in Ephesians 4:17-19 about the hardness of heart and loss of sensitivity resonate with your personal experiences or observations?
6. Reflecting on the idea that 'it's a world of laughter and a world of tears,' how can we better support each other in both joyful and difficult times within our church community?
7. Dr. Dodd talks about the need to cry out, reach out, and crave. How do these concepts relate to your relationship with God and others? How can you practice these more intentionally?

### **PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You in humility and gratitude. Thank You for creating us in Your image, reminding us that we bear the Imago Dei. Lord, help us to cry

out, reach out, and crave connection with You and with each other. May we yield to You fully, embracing our neediness, our fears, and our hopes, trusting that You are our strength and our comfort. Teach us to see through the eyes of our hearts, to connect deeply with our true selves and to others. Guide us to live vulnerably, surrendering control, and finding true life in Your love and grace. We pray that You will use us as Your vessels to bring Your comfort and healing to those who are hurting, thirsty, and in need. Bind us together in Your love as we seek to live as true image bearers, finding life and life to the full in You. Amen.