



## **Imago Dei: Living as Image Bearers in Everyday Life**

*Group Leader Guide*

*New River Church*

### **RECAP**

This week's discussion focused on how to practically live as image bearers of God in everyday life, marriage, parenting, and community. They shared insights about walking with God through friendship, growing in dependence on Him, and how we reflect God's image in our relationships and interactions.

### **GETTING STARTED**

1. Pastor Keith and the Joneses discussed the importance of being an image bearer of God. How do you understand the concept of being made in the image of God, and how does it affect your everyday life?
2. Julie mentioned the importance of recognizing God's greatness and His personal love for us. How does keeping both of these truths in balance affect your relationship with God?

### **LIVING OUT THE TRUTH**

1. Darren shared that his awareness of his need for Jesus has grown as he has matured in faith. How have you experienced a growing need for God in your own life? How has it changed the way you approach your relationship with Him?
2. Julie discussed the shift from formality in her relationship with God to experiencing friendship with Him. How can developing a friendship with God change the way you pray, listen to Him, and live out your faith?
3. One of the key points in the conversation was how we can practically reflect God's image in marriage. Julie shared the importance of seeing her spouse as a tool in God's hands to shape her. How can this perspective change the way we approach our closest relationships?
4. Darren and Julie talked about not over-relying on our spouses and finding community to meet our relational needs. How do you balance needing your spouse and needing community in your life? Are there areas where you might be over-relying on one person to meet all your needs?
5. Darren mentioned that focusing too much on marriage can be harmful if we're not also engaging in God's mission. How can pursuing God's mission with your spouse (or friends) strengthen your relationship?
6. Julie shared the powerful practice of asking, "What do you need?" when communicating with your spouse during difficult moments. How can this question change the dynamic of your relationships, both in marriage and in other close friendships?

## **MARRIAGE AND PARENTING**

1. Darren and Julie emphasized that kids need to learn to hear from God for themselves. How can you encourage the younger people in your life to build confidence in hearing God's voice and relying on His Word?
2. The Joneses shared the parenting practice of saying "yes" as often as possible. How can this concept of creating a positive environment for children, while also having firm boundaries, be applied to your parenting or mentoring relationships?
3. Darren mentioned the importance of apologizing to our children when we've made mistakes. How does humility and honesty in parenting (or leadership) create a healthier dynamic in your relationships?

## **COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORING**

1. Pastor Keith praised Darren and Julie for their example of loving their neighbors well. Darren shared the humorous story about responding "Polo" to his neighbor's call for her cat. How can we balance being real and authentic with our neighbors while still reflecting Christ's love in practical ways?
2. Darren and Julie spoke about the importance of being patient and real in friendships, not rushing the process, and being in it for the long haul. How can you cultivate genuine, long-term relationships in your community that reflect God's patience and love?
3. Darren shared the importance of understanding that it's not our job to save others—that's God's work. How can this truth free you from pressure when sharing your faith with those around you?

## **PRAYER**

Father, we thank You for creating us as Your image bearers and for the privilege of reflecting Your glory in our relationships. Help us to grow in intimacy with You, to develop genuine friendships, and to live out Your mission in our marriages, parenting, and communities. Give us the grace to love our neighbors well and to trust You to do the transforming work in our lives and theirs. In Jesus' name, Amen.