

Outline

- Week 1: Who should I be?
- Week 2: God Most Holy
- Week 3: God Most Loving
- Week 4: God Most Good
- Week 5: God Most Just
- Week 6: God Most Merciful
- Week 7: God Most Gracious
- Week 8: God Most Faithful
- Week 9: God Most Patient
- Week 10: God Most Truthful
- Week 11: God Most Wise

How this Study Works

Over the next couple of months, we will be studying God's will for our lives. We'll learn answers to the question "Who should I be?" by looking at who God is and how we can reflect His image in our own lives.

This study follows the outline of the book "In His Image" by Jen Wilkin. While we'll be looking at ideas she presents, the book is not necessary for us to find answers to these questions. Our primary study source will be God's Word, and these daily prompts will reflect that. For those of you who choose to read "In His Image," I recommend reading the related chapter on the weekend. For those of you not reading the book, I'll include the full quote any time I reference it, so you won't feel a need to purchase the book. However, if you'd like a book provided for you, just let me know. You may also want to pick up a journal to write your thoughts as you study. While we work through this study, please pray for the women of our congregation and community - that those who need answers to big questions and those who need to refocus on God will find their way to our class, so that God can show His image through us.

Each day will also include a song of worship to carry with you throughout the day. Several will probably be new to you, so I've added them all to a YouTube playlist here:

<http://bit.ly/in-his-image>

God, help us as we learn more about you. Help us set aside any incorrect assumptions and understand who you truly are. As we learn more about you, we want to become more and more like you. Give us opportunities to reflect your image into the world, and let the light we reflect lead people to salvation in you. We are already in awe of all the work you have done in the world, and we are excited to see what you do over the coming weeks. In the name of your son Jesus, Amen.

Week 1

Week 1 Day 1

As conscientious Christian women, we often ask God to show us what to do next. We pray for answers to questions of job choice, marriage, where we should live, and what to do during certain situations. In a way, “it reveals a believers awareness that, to be a follower of Christ, not every option is open to me: whatever the way forward, it is not wide but narrow.” (11)

“Without meaning to, we can begin to regard our relationship with God primarily as a means toward better decision making. We can slip into a conception of God as a cosmic Dear Abby...” (12) However, the Bible doesn’t give circumstantial advice - it gives timeless, life-long truths. While God does want to hear about our lives and bring our cares to His throne, He wants to be more to us than an advice-giver. Since we are addressing the God “who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Eph 3:20), we need to consider asking more than situational advice.

“If we focus on our actions without addressing our hearts, we may become better behaved lovers of self.” (13) - just like the Pharisees. Many of the times Christ addressed the Pharisees, he was pointing out that they were doing “right” actions, but their motives were all wrong.

“What does it profit me to make the right choice if I’m still the wrong person? A lost person can make ‘good choices.’ But only a person indwelt by the Holy Spirit can make a good choice for the purpose of glorifying God.” (14)

As Christians, we should want the same thing God wants for us. Over this study we will consider a better question than “What do I do?” We will ask “Who should I be?”

“What is God’s will for your life? Simply put, that you would be like Christ.” (16)

Pray today that our study will be in line with God’s will for our lives. Ask that He help you become more like Him each day. Praise him for displaying his power and gentleness through His creation.

Today’s Song: “I Could Sing About Heaven” by A Few Good Men

Week 1 Day 2

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage:

Let's look today at the image of God in the Old Testament. Read through these passages, writing down your observations and questions as you go. Try reading 2 translations of each.

Genesis 1:26-27

Genesis 5:1-2

Genesis 9:6-7

Assess:

What did being made in God's image mean for Adam, Eve, and their children?

What did it mean for Noah and his family?

Spark Transformation:

How does being made in God's image affect your life today?

How can you remember this fact more often each day?

What can you do this week to reflect God's image more clearly?

Turn toward God:

Praise God today through Psalm 8

Today's Song: Magnificat by The Zoe Group

Week 1 Day 3

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage the Text:

Let's look today at the reflection of God's glory. Read through these passages, writing down your observations and questions as you go.

Exodus 33: 12 - 34:9

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Hebrews 1:1-4

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Choose one of the above scriptures and draw what you think the scene looks like. As you doodle, ask yourself what the passage meant for the original audience.

For example, if you choose Exodus 33:12 - 34:9, ask why Moses wanted to see God's glory, how he would have felt that God agreed, how God would have felt in the situation, what Moses did in response, etc.

Assess:

Look back at the observations you made for today's passages. Are there any questions that you don't have an answer for? If so, read more of the context, search for cross-references, and/or message/call someone else in the class for their perspective.

Spark Transformation:

What do these scriptures mean for you?

What do they say about how God interacts with His people?

How should we act in response?

Turn Toward God:

Praise God today through Psalm 19:7-11

Today' Song: "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul"

Week 1 Day 4

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage:

Let's look today at the example of Christ. Read through these passages, writing down your observations and questions as you go.

Romans 8:26-30

Colossians 1:15-20

1 Peter 2:21-25

1 John 2:1-6

Colossians 3:9-10

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Assess:

What do these passages tell us about God and His will for us?

Based on context, what did these passages mean for the original audience?

Spark Transformation:

In light of these scriptures, how do we make sure we are following His will?

Is there a specific part of the "old you" that still persists today? What can you do this week to be transformed into the image of Christ?

"If, however, mankind is uniquely made in the image of God as part of His original "very good" created order, then our sin problem is a reality that is only solved by the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ who is the very image of God. Through Christ alone we can be made right before God and conform to the image of His Son that we were originally created to be."

<https://answersingenesis.org/genesis/what-is-image-of-god/>

What is the significance of being made in the image of God and following the example Christ gave of that image?

Turn to God:

Praise God today through Job 36:24

Today's Song: "My God and I"

Week 1 Day 5

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage:

2 Corinthians 6:16-7

2 chronicles 7:1-3

2 Chronicles 29:3-11

Exodus 50:34-38

Assess:

What was the significance of the temple for the Jewish people?

What was the significance of the temple for God?

Spark Transformation:

What should we be doing to fill our role as the temple of the living God?

What can you do this week to "bring holiness to completion in the fear of God"?

Turn to God:

Today's Songs: "His Righteousness" by Acapella