



## WEEK 5 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### CONNECT

- What are 1-2 things on your bucket list? Why are these things important to accomplish in your lifetime?

### CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

### CHRIST

Read Colossians 1:15-23 & Philippians 2:5-11 as a group

- What do these passages say about the humanity and the deity of Jesus? What are some of the implications of Jesus being fully God? Fully human?
- Philippians teaches us that Jesus made the decision to veil His deity so that His humanity could be fully expressed. He could have played the God card, but instead He showed us humanity as God intended us to be. Dick Staub writes, “I came to see Jesus as the great humanizer. I realized that He did not come to start a new religion; He came to rehumanize dehumanized humans, to restore the luster of God’s image so we can again glow with God’s holistic presence spiritually, intellectually, creatively, morally, and relationally. Jesus came to earth to restore fallen humans to fully human beings regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, gender, and economic, educational, or social status.”<sup>1</sup> **What from this quote resonates with you? Why?**
- Jesus’ focus was on the plans and ways of God. His preferences were set aside for the humbleness of a servant that culminated with the cross. When we place our preference over God’s, pride is the word that comes to mind. The pride that leads us to sin stems from a

<sup>1</sup> Dick Staub, *About You: Fully Human, Fully Alive* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010), 139.

self-righteous or conceited attitude. The irony is that we live in a culture that sometimes rewards this kind of pride. **In what ways have you seen this happen? In what ways have you seen pride affect people's lives?**

- The preference of pride will crowd out God and people in our lives. **How does pride manifest itself in you (confidence, intelligence, fashion, sarcasm, a commitment to excellence, something else)? Looking back at Jesus' example in Colossians and Philippians, what would it look like for you to have the same mindset as Jesus in your relationship with God? What about your relationships with others?**

**Read John 3:26-31 as a group.**

- If we are not careful, pride can easily take root in our lives. John gives us the secret to rooting out pride in v. 30 (NIV), "He must become greater; I must become less." **In what ways do you need to "become less" so Jesus can "become greater" in your life? What are some obstacles to that happening?**
- The wisdom of John is a shift in preferring the things of God over the things of man. In reality, everything we have is a blessing from God. Pride takes the credit. John reminds us to give credit where credit is due. **What is one thing you can do this week to remind your pride that God deserves all the credit?**
- Jesus' preference for the things of God created the path for reconciliation. Through Him we are able to reconcile ourselves with God and that allows us to live out reconciliation with others. **Right now, where are you in need of relational reconciliation? What can this group do to support you?**

## **CALLING**

- Matthew 25:21a (NIV) says, "*His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'*" Our Heavenly Father longs to speak these words over us. When it comes to purpose in our lives we have to remember who it's from and who it's for. Take some time to ponder your preferences this week? What's the "Why" behind the things you do? Humbly allow the Holy Spirit to guide and speak into any areas that might be out of alignment.
- **Daily Devotions:** Read and engage with the ICON Daily Devotions. Text JOINGOD to 81411 to have them texted to you each morning at 7:00AM or tap on Study in Northside's mobile app to find the Daily Devotions.
- **Further Study & Reflection:** Read *Walk Like Jesus* by Dann Spader or *Enemies of the Heart* by Andy Stanley.
- **Memorize:** "*For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*" **Colossians 1:19-20 (NIV)**