

SESSION 1 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GET STARTED

We are not just a part of the Church, we are also a part of families and friend groups. Photos tell stories. They remind us of moments, our history, and identity. This week, share a baby photo and a story that goes along with it.

Do you have a physical characteristic similar to someone in your family? Are there any mannerisms or phrases used in your family that have been passed on to you? How does knowing that these traits have been passed on provide a sense of family identity?

TAKE IT IN

Watch Session 1: WE at mynorthside.com/WE. What encouraged or challenged you from the video and daily study guide this week?

TALK IT OVER

Read Genesis 1:26-31

- We are created in the image of a WE. For all eternity, God exists in a self-sufficient community known as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This idea pushes the limits of our finite minds trying to understand an infinite God. In fact, the Trinity is a mystery we won't fully understand. What we do know is that God exists in community, and we are created in His image. When you think about how God exists in community, what questions or thoughts come to mind? What are the implications to our relationships if we are created in the image of a God existing in community?
- Since humanity has been created in the image of God, we all have something in common in our value. How does this truth affect our attitude toward ourselves and/or others?
- Take a moment to reflect on the words "image" and "likeness." What words would you use to describe the character/nature of God? How does this help you define what it means to be made in the image of God? What does it mean to you that we reflect the character/nature of God to other people?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- We are better together as a WE. Share a story about a time when you needed help from others (learning, struggles, physical, spiritual, etc.). Who showed up, how did they help, and how did the experience grow your faith?

- We cannot become the people God wants us to be outside of community. How does this truth help you rethink our group or the Church? What barriers are there to being in community with others?
- Reflect back over Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Practically, what does it look like to live out this passage in our group? How can we better help each other grow in the character and knowledge of God?

Read Matthew 16:16-18 & Galatians 2:20

- Wherever we go, we are a WE. The word church comes from the Greek word *Ekklesia*, meaning a called out gathering of people. If you are a follower of Jesus, then you are a part of His Church. We tend to think of our faith as very individualistic, and, if we are not careful, we will limit faith to the individual. How do you view other believers in your life? Do you see them as individuals, do you see yourself connected to them, or do you see them/yourself as part of the global Church?
- As followers of Jesus, we are not alone, because Christ lives in us. Think about the reach Christ has globally through the Church. Jesus said that He will build an eternal, unstoppable Church through us. What is an intentional next step you can take to build up your local church? What about the global Church?

LIVE IT OUT

God didn't create us because He was lonely; He chose to create humanity out of love. God is love (1 John 4:8), and that is the reason why it is not good for humanity to be alone (Genesis 2:18). You cannot experience or share love in isolation. Jesus says that love will be the defining characteristic of His Church (John 13:34-35), and love is the reason He went to the cross (John 3:16). Christ lives in us, we are becoming love, and the shift from ME to WE always begins with love. This week, look for intentional ways to love others in community.

Daily Study Guide: Take 30 minutes each day to complete the daily study guide. Don't think of it as homework, but relational time growing alongside your Heavenly Father. Come ready to discuss what you are learning at the next group session.

Memorize: *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."* Ecclesiastes 4:9-10