

## Small Group Curriculum

---

### Still Wondering • Week 5 • Will I ever feel like enough?

Most of us have this lie that lives somewhere in our minds and pops up over and over again through our lives: that we aren't enough. To compound on top of that, we have all the messages from culture and capitalism reminding us the ways we aren't enough. The shame leads to despair, which leads us to search an endless menu of "quick fixes" and three easy steps to finally be enough.

But what if there was a different way? A different way to step out of this shame spiral that creeps up on us so quickly and hijacks the goodness in our lives. This week, we will reflect on the truth that we are created good, to reflect the very image of God, who is at work making us more and more into the likeness of Christ.

### REMINDERS

- [Awakening 201](#): a three-week membership class specifically crafted to guide you through a clear and practical pathway to growing as a follower of Jesus. *Sunday, May 17th, 24th, & 31st, 11:15am-12:30pm.*
- [Boundaries](#): a nine-week summer study offering practical help, encouragement, insight, and wisdom to anyone who seeks to live a healthy and balanced life. *Mondays June 1-July 27, 6:30-8pm at the Awakening Office.*
- All upcoming events can be found [here](#).

### ICEBREAKER

- Do you have an embarrassing important or professional photo? Think school, family, driver's license, passport, wedding, etc.

### INTRODUCTION

God created this world and us and called it very good, and when that was broken, He cared enough and loved enough to have a plan to restore it. To restore us. Jesus came to restore the goodness that God created. Our goodness depends on God: God who created us, Jesus who redeemed us, and the Spirit working in us.

To reflect on this, we will reflect on the truth of God's words, scripture that will anchor us when the waves of shame and self-improvement ebb and flow and threaten to drift us away from what God has called *very good*.

# AWAKENING

## DISCUSSION

Read [Genesis 1:26-31](#).

*So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27*

*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31*

- What does it mean to be created in the "image" and "likeness" of God (v. 26)? How does this differ from the rest of creation?
- How often do you recognize the image of God in yourself or others? What makes it difficult?
- How should knowing you are made in God's image affect your view of yourself and others? How has sin distorted the image of God in humans, and how does Christ restore it?
- God called you *very good*. How does this truth sit with you?
- What brokenness in our world (distortions of the image of God) weigh heavy on your heart?
- What comfort can we gain in knowing God will one day fully and finally conform us to the image of Christ and that we will never fail to image Him well again?

Read Proverbs 18:21.

*The tongue has the power of life and death,  
and those who love it will eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:21*

- What does it mean that our words have the power of life and death?
- Can you think of a time in your life when someone paid you a compliment or encouraging word and you still remember it? Why did it have such a big impact?
- Recently, have the words you've spoken to yourself reflected life or death? What fruit, sweet or bitter, is produced from these words?
- Where might you need God's words about you to replace your own? Choose a verse below or one of your own and share how it speaks truth over a lie you've been stuck in.

*I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. Psalm 139:14*

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10*

# AWAKENING

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1*

*You are set apart by God, made holy and dearly loved... Colossians 3:12*

- How could you make space for God's words to fill your life this week?

## RESPONSE

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12*

- You are chosen, set apart, and dearly loved. What is your response to hearing that this is who you are in Christ? How does this impact the way you see yourself? Which part is most meaningful to you and why?
- In what ways have you experienced Jesus' compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience?
- Where have you seen the Spirit working in you? What's an example of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience growing in your life by God's power?

## PRAYER

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4*

Pray for one another in the areas that were shared during discussion.