

## **“LIVE OUT...the Glory of God”**

### **Missional Series Small Group Curriculum, Week 2**

#### **RAISE the Question**

Since 2003, millions of people have been able to create the person they have always wanted to be in “Second Life”, a virtual world filled with virtual people called Avatars. In fact, there are approximately 13 million people spending about 600 million dollars this year to create Avatars who will represent them in this new virtual world (and that is on “Second Life” alone, not including the other virtual worlds). Each Avatar is created for a purpose – the only representative that a person has is his/her Avatar, which is why people spend considerable effort, energy, and money on their Avatars.

What do you think is the allure of creating a “second life” in a virtual world?

#### **SEEK the Answer**

In Genesis 1:26-28, after creating the universe, the earth, the animals, and the plant life, God created man and woman for a unique role – to rule on His behalf over creation. As His ambassadors, God created a man and woman “in his image” to reflect his glory among the rest of creation. The problem is that they decided to rule on their own behalf instead of on God’s behalf. In fact, some have suggested that the act of rule on their own behalf is the same cause for which people retreat into a “second life”. In other words, if you fail at controlling your life in this reality under your own terms, you can have a “second life” where it is much easier to control and manage the outcome.

Last week we emphasized God’s glory and how all of what God does is for his own glory – including creating man. Ultimately, we, along with all of creation, were created to bring God glory with our lives. This week we will see that God, in his grace and mercy, did not leave us to fail. Instead, in the most incredible act in history, the God of the universe became man in Jesus Christ thus enabling mankind to fulfill his God-given purpose on earth.

**Have a member of the group read Romans 8:29-30 aloud. The group should**

**simply listen to the words of the passage.**

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son,  
so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.  
And having chosen them, he called them to come to him.  
And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself.  
And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.  
(New Living Translation)

**Have another member of the group read Romans 8:29-30 aloud from the same translation above. This time, each person should look for one word (only one!) that stands out in the reading of the passage.**

**Have yet another member of the group read Romans 8:29-30 aloud from the same translation above. This time, each person should look for an entire phrase that stands out in the reading of the passage. Share with the group why your attention gravitated toward your particular word and phrase.**

**Have one final member of the group read Romans 8:29-30 aloud from the same translation above. This time, the reader should pause after every verse and leave enough time for one or more in the group to pray through the concept present in the verse.**

## **Living Out the Truth**

Last week, we talked about God's Glory and how putting God first gives us a proper perspective from which to evaluate ourselves. This week we are looking more closely at ourselves and who God inherently created us as humans to be – image bearers of God by ruling on His behalf on the earth.

What comes to mind when you think of being “created in (God's) image?”

What steps do you believe you could reasonably take to live out the image of God this week at home? At work? In your community?

What role should the Holy Spirit play in you living out the image of God and how might you cooperate with Him in His work of conforming you to the image of Christ Jesus?

## **Closing Thought**

“Being in the image of God means at least that we should image forth God. We should reflect what he is really like. And we should do that not to make ourselves look great (as imagers) but to make him look great (as Creator). People make images of famous people to honor them. God made man in his own image so that he would be seen and enjoyed and honored through what man does.” (John Piper, *Don't Waste Your Life*)

**For Further Study: Meditate on Scripture**

Read through Psalm 8:3-9 and meditate on it for 20 - 30 minutes writing down your thoughts from God's Word. What stands out to you from this passage?

Read through II Corinthians 3 (particularly verses 16-18) and meditate on it for 20 - 30 minutes and writing down your thoughts from God's Word. What stands out to you from this passage?