

## GROUP DISCUSSION:

### ICE-BREAKER

When you meet someone for the first time. How do you usually describe yourself to them?

E.g I am a teacher and grew up in Montreal. I am a foodie and....

### WATCH: The Image of God by the Bible Project

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/image-of-god/>



### READ: Romans 8:12-17

**12** Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.

**13** For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

**14** For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **15** The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

### DISCUSSION:

- How does Paul describe the change in our identity in the verses above. What was it before and what is it now?
- What does it actually mean to be the child of God? Referring to the bible project video or Gen 1&2, what are the similarities to our original identity as images of God?
- What does it mean that the Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children? Why do we need the Spirit to testify to our Spirit?
- What does it feel and look like in your present and the future to be defined by your identity as a child of God with brothers and sisters in this family?

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

“The heart of the Father is for each of us, his children, to come to know and believe who we are and who we have been made to be – to know our gifts, passions, limitations, hopes, dreams, and calling. It is in Community with others and in the Scriptures that we begin to learn and internalize our inheritance as children of a Good Father who wants to show us the good identities he has for us.” - Practicing the Way, Identity

### EXERCISE: Identity Audit

- 1) Write a list of all your personal affiliations and characteristics that give you a sense of who you are.
- 2) Take the list you came up with and organize them in order of which ones mostly strongly define your sense of self to the ones that only loosely define who you are.
- 3) Which of these identities compete most with your identity as a child of God?
- 4) The American Psychological association describes personal identity below. Write a list of some ways you feel in your body, memories, goals, values, expectations and beliefs that you are a fully adopted child of God and a co-heir with Christ?

