



June 10-11, 2023

## Foundations For Flourishing - Week 4

### “One Human Family”

#### GATHER

- Describe a time you were surprised by something out of your control. (This could be something bad - like a car breaking down; or something good - like a being thrown a surprise birthday party). How important is it for you to feel ‘in control’ of a situation?
- If you were at a weekend service, share your takeaways from the message you heard. What was something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?

#### GROW

This weekend’s message was launched out of Genesis 1:26-27 and interacted with some other key texts (see below). Talk through the topic more thoroughly as a group using the outline below.

*Feel free to select a suggested question or two in each section to guide your conversation.*

- **Understand Their Story**

Read - Genesis 1:26-27 and discuss the idea of how God created humanity in “the image of God”. Similar to last week, we’re drawing from this foundation to see the implications of this in our human history and for our future.

- Compare 1:26-27 to the state of things after sin enters the world. Look up Genesis 6.
  - How does Genesis 6:6-7 describe the state of humanity?
  - What does God observe about how the world is affected by humanity’s fallen state in Genesis 6:11-12?
- Now read Genesis 9:1-7 and 12:1-3. Despite humanity’s wickedness, how does Genesis continue to reinforce...
  - The value of human life? (We looked at this last week, but in case you need a reminder: see especially Gen. 9:1-7)
    - Are there places where you see people, who are made in the image of God, being dehumanized (even by Christians)? How does the view from Genesis push against discrimination or persecution of people?
  - God’s heart for all ethnicities? (See Genesis 12:1-3)
    - Does this match the perceptions about the Christian worldview in our city/country? (eg. Do people think Christianity is a faith which brings blessing to all humanity?)

- Where is Abram from (see Genesis 11:27-32)? What is the geographical setting of the whole Bible?
- Based on these facts is it logical for people to perceive Christianity as a “white person’s religion?”
- **Connect To His Story**
  - The gospel story clarifies that God has a redemptive plan for all of humanity. He created *one* human race, and is redeeming his creation to become one family.
    - First, read Ephesians 2:11-22.
      - Most of us at Northview are not Jewish by birth. What does this passage tell us about those who (as “Gentiles”) were at one time separated from Christ?
      - What does this passage tell us about what God’s plans for humanity are “in Christ”?
    - Next, read Revelation 7:9-10 to see what eventually happens because of Ephesians 2.
      - What are the characteristics of the “great multitude”?
      - What are the actions of the “great multitude”?
      - How does what we see here, at the end of the Bible, connect to what God desired at the start? How does this impact your appreciation of the entire biblical story?
    - We believe Christians are to live as “kingdom people” *now* in light of what the kingdom is and will be in eternity. What have these texts reminded you of when it comes to how you think and live (especially in regards to other people groups)?

## GO

- **Apply To Our Story**  
 Understanding the gospel story informs our responses to the issues we face in our world today. Understanding the implications of the gospel story (namely, the presence of the Holy Spirit!) supplies us with the power to act on those responses.

*Feel free to select a section or two to use in your group time.*

- Have you interacted with a different (or persecuted) people group? What has helped you understand people different from you?
- Based on the gospel vision for humanity (as seen in the examples above), how should we think about things like racism? How is the Christian approach to social justice different from other approaches? (What Bible verses do you lean on most to support your answer?)
- If you, or people in your group are asking questions about these issues, feel free to connect with our care department ([care@northview.org](mailto:care@northview.org)) to talk, or to receive resource recommendations. Another great resource is ApologeticsCanada.com. You can check out some of their resources here:  
<https://apologeticscanada.com/acle-210506-crt/>  
<https://apologeticscanada.com/2020/07/01/critical-theory-is-it-compatible-with-christianity/>  
<https://apologeticscanada.com/2020/06/11/racism-its-still-here/>

Pray!

- In light of your conversation or things happening in the lives represented in your group, how might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to pray?

- All of our activity is unto God's glory and our mission is to help every person become a "deeply rooted follower of Jesus". In case you haven't noticed...*we put this next question in every Community Group guide because we believe it's important*: Who are those who don't currently follow Jesus - or are wrestling with the subjects we've looked at this week - that you could pray for *by name*?