

WHAT MAKES YOU, YOU?

July 27, 2025

Keith Richardson // Genesis 1:27 & Colossians 1:15

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. Is there anything noteworthy going on in your life since last week? Where have you seen God at work in your life or the lives of others?
2. If someone asked, “Who are you?”, how would you answer in one sentence?
3. Share about a time you felt “lost” (literally or figuratively). What helped you find your way?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

4. Read Genesis 1:26-27 together. What does it mean that you are made in the image of God, and how should that truth shape the way you see yourself and others?
5. Read Colossians 1:15 and Matthew 16:24-26 together. How does seeing Jesus as the perfect image of God and the guide for life help us understand our true identity?
6. How would you describe the difference between sympathy and empathy, and how does knowing that Jesus truly empathizes with you (Hebrews 4:15) encourage you in your struggles?
7. Keith gave us the helpful analogy of Jesus as the guide who has walked the trail we need to walk. How is that different for us than just having a spiritual map or a checklist to follow?
8. Read Daniel 7:13-14 together. What does this prophecy reveal about Jesus, and how does it help you to trust Him to be your guide in uncertain times?

PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

9. Keith described ways we often define ourselves: by our preferences, our feelings, our past, our group, or even religion. Which of these would you say you have relied on the most, and has that helped or hurt your sense of identity?
10. Through the message for this week, you were encouraged to be an “angled mirror,” reflecting God’s glory out to the world and praise back to Him. Which of those do you struggle with in your current walk, and what would it take for you to turn the corner?
11. What preferences or desires do you need to surrender in order to better reflect God’s image as you deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus?

Pray together for any requests your group might have. Pray with thanksgiving for God creating us in His image, giving us value and purpose. Ask God to help us deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Jesus daily. And pray for each member of the group that we might be better able to reflect God’s image in our workplaces, homes, schools, and relationships this week.



Announcements

We have a **Back to School Splash** event planned for families of our Wheel Children's Ministry on August 23 at 12:30pm at Lower Jaycee Park in Reidsville. This should be fun for the whole family. And while no sign-up is required, entry is capped at 100 people into the park, so we recommend that families show up early. Come cool off, connect, and celebrate the start of a new school year with us. The entry fee is \$2 per person (kids under 2 are free).

This is our last gathering of Life Groups for Trimester 2 of 2025. The next trimester will start on September 8 with REGROUP sign-ups on August 17-24. If you would like to plan a Deeper Gathering as a group (see <https://nvf.life/life-groups/lgleader/#deeper-gatherings>), we encourage you to do that! If you plan to stick with your current Life Group, your leaders will keep you on the roster. If anything needs to change, just let them know and they can update before the RE-GROUP period to ensure others have a chance to find community.

Individual Options for Going Deeper

Take a look at this article and video from GotQuestions that explores what it means to be made in God's image:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/image-of-God.html>