

Disfigured Image Bearers

Small Group Questions

Getting to know you question:

1. This is our last week for small groups, so take a few minutes to discuss what you have appreciated about your group and make a plan for a get-together or two this summer.

Sermon reflection questions:

2. What about Dennis' message made you uncomfortable? How did it help you understand yourself and others?

Into the Bible:

Last week we saw that we were created in the image of God, which in God's words was "very good." But something went wrong. Let's explore.

What's wrong with us?

3. Read Romans 5:12. How did sin enter into the world? Why does it affect us? What results do you see in our world?

4. Read Romans 3:10-18. This is an uncomfortable passage. Which parts do you buy easily? Which ones do you struggle to accept?

Read Isaiah 57:15-21

How does a Holy God deal with all this?

5. How does God describe himself in verse 15?

6. Why does he live with "the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit?"

7. When someone is angry with another person, why do they stay angry? Why would they choose to put aside their anger?

8. In verse 16, what did God choose and why did he choose it?

9. How does God feel about sin? (v.17) How does this either confirm what you knew all along, or surprise you?

10. What does God want? Why do you think he wants it? (v.18-19)

11. Some refuse to become contrite or submit to God. What kind of life is in store for those who resist God's desire to heal—those whom he calls "the wicked?"

12. This can cause fear of God's judgment. How does Jesus inform us on this matter? (See John 3:16, John 5:22-24, and John 6:40)

Application:

Spend this next stage of your life embracing the grace that God provides through Jesus.