

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of July 31, 2016

This Week's Focus: Did God really say that? - "We're All God's Children"

"Glad submission to God's authority, and to God's superior value and beauty is something we are not able to do. This is not because we are kept from doing what we prefer to do. It is because we prefer our own authority, and treasure our own value above God's. We cannot prefer God as supremely valuable while preferring ourselves supremely." **John Piper**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- Have you heard someone use the phrases, "We're all God's children." or "All paths lead to God."? What do they mean by these statements?
- Genesis tells us that humankind was created in the image and likeness of God. Reference Genesis 1:26-31. In what way(s) do we bear the image of our Creator? Should we conclude, then, that we are all God's children? Describe the difference between a creator-creature relationship and a father-child relationship.
- Read Isaiah 53:6 and Ephesians 2:1-3. How does God's word describe the human condition? Discuss the devastating effects of sin on our identity, in our relationship with God, in our relationships with each other, etc.
- Read John 1:1-5, 9-13. What is the only way that a person can become a child of God? What does it mean to be a child of God and "fellow heirs with Christ"? Reference Romans 8:12-17.
 Have you been adopted as God's child through the atoning work of Jesus Christ?
- Does God's gift of salvation and adoption fuel a desire to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community? Discuss how sharing the truth of the Gospel is more loving than perpetuating the popular lie of spiritual pluralism.