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WE ARE ALL IMAGE-BEARERS OF GOD

5 DAY DEVOTIONAL & WORSHIP PACKAGE

In the beginning...

God created the heavens and the earth...the day and night...the land and seas...the plants and animals. On the sixth day, God created mankind in His own image, male and female. He saw all that was made, and it was very good.

(GENESIS 1, PARAPHRASED)

In 2016, the foundation was gifted a donation to purchase 3,000 acres of property in the Pocono Mountains, a stunning area of land with beautiful waterfalls, lush greenery, and natural rock ledges that later inspired the name, "Rising Light Ridge." With the exceptionally generous donor's only request being that the land be used to further the kingdom, the property is now being developed into a year-round ministry campus, serving families and individuals of all backgrounds and abilities, and celebrating them as God's children and image-bearers.

But what does that phrase really mean? Do you view yourself as an image-bearer of God? Do you view others that way?

We believe an understanding of this concept is foundational to the work we do, and even more importantly, to how we live our lives as followers of Christ. To that end, we invite you to join us for the next five days, in both worship and the Word, as we take a closer look at what it means to be an image-bearer of the Most High God.

DAY ONE:

WE ARE WONDERFULLY CREATED

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. PSALM 139:13-14

REFLECT

Take a moment to reflect upon the fact that the sovereign God of this universe created us in His image. No other creation bears His likeness; it is only mankind who has been given such distinction. Each of us was designed with the utmost care and intentionality; and our Father finds us wonderful, not because of anything we have done, but because we reflect aspects of His character.

Do you see yourself the way God sees you? Do you see others the way He sees them?

PRAY

Father, we are humbled by Your great love for each one of us, profoundly displayed in each of our lives from the very moment we were intentionally created by You. We recognize that we have done nothing to deserve such favor, and yet, You show it to us again and again. Thank You. Help us become more reflective of You each day and let us never take for granted what it means to be made in Your image.

WORSHIP

Your eyes, they have seen me Before I was born And You know all the good things That You made me for

Wonderfully Made, Song by Ellie Holcomb

To listen to Wonderfully Made, please click **here**

To download a free wallpaper reminding you of the truth found in Psalm 139, please click **here**

DAY TWO: WE ARE INHERENTLY VALUED

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 JOHN 3:1A

REFLECT

Spend a few minutes today thinking upon this good news—God calls us His sons and daughters! So great was His desire for relationship with His creation, that He willingly sacrificed His one and only Son as satisfactory payment for our sins, so that we could be reconciled to Him for eternity. It was that act of love which secured our identity as His children and determined our value once and for all; not our abilities, successes, possessions, or the other things the world often deems valuable.

How can you live every day more mindful of what Jesus' death on the cross says about how valuable you are?

PRAY

Father, being loved as Your child is a priceless gift. We will never comprehend the weight You bore as You watched Your Son willingly die in our place, but we are grateful You loved us that much. Help us to see those around us with Your eyes—as beloved children of God, priceless in value, and worthy of love.

WORSHIP

I am chosen, not forsaken I am who You say I am You are for me, not against me I am who You say I am

Who You Say I Am, Song by Hillsong Worship

To listen to Who You Say I am, please click **here**

To download a free wallpaper reminding you of the truth found in 1 John 3, please click **here**

DAY THREE:

WE ARE DESIGNED WITH PURPOSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." JEREMIAH 29:11

REFLECT

The human life is one of both joy and pain. Living in a world in which confusion, anxiety, pain, loss, and evil often seem to run wild can make knowing our individual purpose and finding the strength to carry it out feel totally overwhelming. Yet our status as image-bearers means that we have each been uniquely gifted and equipped to fulfill His perfect plan for each of our lives. What hope this gives us to hold onto, what joy this knowledge still brings, no matter what circumstances we face!

At this very moment, are you giving into fear or discouragement regarding the purpose God has called you to? Or are you continuing to trust the Lord each day, believing His plan for you is good?

PRAY

Father, thank You for the great purpose You have planned for each of us. Thank you for gifting us with talents designed to love and serve others well, and to ultimately bring glory to You. Grow our desire to step into the plans You have for us and give us endurance to run our races well, even when the road is uncertain and the work is hard.

WORSHIP

I know nothing has been wasted No failure or mistake You're an artist and a potter I'm the canvas and the clay

Canvas and Clay, Song by Pat Barrett

To listen to Canvas and Clay, please click **here**

To download a free wallpaper reminding you of the truth found in Jeremiah 29, please click **here**

DAY FOUR: WE ARE CALLED TO COMMUNITY

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up... A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

REFLECT

Research has long supported the belief that being a part of a thriving community has a measurable positive effect upon our lives—both physically and psychologically. But our intrinsic desire for community it is also part of the image-bearer design. The Trinity is a model of community. Jesus lived in community with His disciples. May it be our goal to make room at the table for everyone and to help each one to see themselves as He does—loved, valuable, welcomed, and likewise made in His image.

Is there a specific way you can pour into your community today? Whether that's engaging more, or inviting someone else to do so, take a step of faith today.

PRAY

Father, we are so grateful for the gift of community. Living in fellowship with Your children – our brothers and sisters – is such a joy. We ask that You pave the way for new Godly relationships to be formed in each of our lives and new communities anchored in You to rise up. Help us to not take each other for granted, but to constantly seek to lift and encourage one another instead.

WORSHIP

And at this table There are no orphans Just a loving Father And His sons and daughters

At the Table, Song by Jonathan Traylor

To listen to At the Table, please click **here**

To download a free wallpaper reminding you of the truth found in Ecclesiastes 4, please click **here**

DAY FIVE: WE ARE UNITED IN CHRIST

And over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. COLOSSIANS 3:14

REFLECT

Today's world is not one of unity. Division and strife can be found at every turn. But our status as image-bearers of God unites us. The inherent value, unique purpose, and powerful calling gifted to every child of His is far stronger than anything that threatens to divide. As we move forward into the many purposes God has in store for each of us, may we all be on the lookout for ways we can create Gospel-centered unity wherever we are.

Do you strive to live in unity with those around you? How can you encourage those around you to do the same?

PRAY

Father, we believe that You are the only one who can bring about real and lasting unity in our broken, divided world. But we also long to be a part of the redemptive story you are writing. Help us to live with both grace and boldness as we seek to create unity in our own communities, for Your glory.

WORSHIP

And on that day, we join the resurrection And stand beside the heroes of the faith With one voice, a thousand generations Sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain" "Forever He shall reign"

Hymn of Heaven, Song by Phil Wickham

To listen to Hymn of Heaven, please click **here**

To download a free wallpaper reminding you of the truth found in Colossians 3, please click **here**