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Week One: Claymation – Study Guide

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August 3, 2013

"You are the spittin' image of your daddy—a chip off the ol' block." These southern phrases have a wide range of reference: personality, actions and reactions, personal physical features, or even achievements. Images are often a matter of opinion and can be questionable in their accuracy. Often, things that are seen or felt by others don't add up to what truly may be. We can be left with a lifetime of uncertainty as to who we really are. As we launch into this new series, we will be uncovering the truth: We are created in God's image!

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Think about, and share, an experience of being compared to someone else. Was it of a physical nature, personality trait, or something you did? Did you completely agree with the comparison?

- 2) How do you compare yourself to others? Does it give you assurance or disappointment?

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Into the Bible

- 3) Read **Genesis 1:26**. Opinions aside, who are you truly an image of? What is the difference between “image” and “likeness” in this verse?

- 4) How much are we like Jesus in our human design? Read **Hebrews 2:11-17** for insight. Since it’s obvious that we are all somewhat distinct in our features, how should we interpret this?

- 5) Read the verses below. For each, how do you see us being very capable of being a “spittin’ image of our daddy”?
 - a) **Genesis 1:11, Luke 17:6, Mark 11:23**
 - b) **1 John 4:7-8, John 13:35**
 - c) **Ephesians 4:32**
 - d) **John 14:26, Matthew 28:19-20**

How Does This Apply?

- 6) If we are not mindful, we can start placing our self worth, and too much value, on physical beauty, or any of our bodily attributes. Read **Isaiah 53:1-5**. Was Jesus handsome? Explain the teaching of **1 Peter 3:3-4**. How much time, money, and stress do you give to personal appearance? Would you say it is a healthy amount?

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7) Being made in the image of God is one of the better cases that can be made for God's desire to be with us in a lifelong relationship. This brings to mind how insufficient dreams of wanting our bodies to reflect an athlete, movie star, or supermodel truly are. What would it take to change our thinking to mostly be concerned for beauty that is inward? Or even to consider our personalities? Are we tempted to change our personalities from group to group? Would you be able to keep a sense of self worth if you had to walk around "ugly" for a day? Would you be refreshed to spend one day of true freedom? Read **Psalm 139:1-14** to see the appreciation of this psalmist of God.

Prayer Focus

This series, **we are praying for people who are created in the image of God** around the world. Here is a specific way you can be praying this week:

Unrest in Africa and the Middle East

Pray for the people of Africa and the Middle East as they experience political upheaval, and for Christians as they experience persecution in the midst of the turmoil.

See www.covechurch.org/prayerfocus for links to further reading on this topic.

Increase Your Learning on Your Own

8) The Church as a whole, if we're not careful, can contribute to misconceptions of how we live out 'image.' Read **John 9:1-3**. How much judgment toward this man was based on his physical condition? What was Jesus' message to them? Are there any personal physical imperfections that make you feel incomplete?