

# OUR SIGNIFICANCE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS FOUND IN OUR MAKER

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN IMAGE BEARER  
SERIES: GOD IS THE IMAGE — I AM THE IMAGE BEARER

## BIG TRUTH: OUR SIGNIFICANCE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS FOUND IN OUR MAKER

Isaiah 45:12; Ephesians 2:10; Job 10:11; Colossians 1:16; Acts 20:24; Deuteronomy 32:6; Isaiah 43:7; Exodus 35:10-26

### BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 139:13-16

*"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."*

### BIG IDEAS

- God intricately and intentionally formed every part of who we are.
- God made every person simultaneously unique and dependent.
- God knows us better than we know ourselves.

### BIBLE PASSAGE: PSALM 139:1-24

### KNEEL - I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

### SERIES AIMS



#### Every student should know that...

- They were created in God's image and likeness for the purpose of worship.
- Value, purpose, significance, and worth are found in and flow from God alone.



#### Every student should feel...

- Awe that God created them in His own image.
- Loved by their heavenly Father who knows them better than they know themselves and still pursues them.



#### Every student should strive to...

- Understand and embrace who God created them to be.
- Talk about gender and identity as a gift from the Lord for His purposes and His glory.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.



#### Every student should want...

- To have a deeper relationship with the God who made them in His image.
- To pursue a lifestyle of worship that centers on the true Savior and rejects false saviors.

### GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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### Every person is fearfully and wonderfully made.

*"...for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*

- When we read the creation narrative in Genesis 1, we understand that God set man apart from the rest of creation. We see this in the way that God created the first man and woman. He created them to bear His image, placing upon them His likeness in such a way that the world would get a picture of God through man. As Scripture unfolds, we see that God's creation of every person is intricate and intentional.
- People are not just created. They are made by the God of the universe and marked with His image as a sign of His value and care of them. All people are fearfully and wonderfully made as the Psalmist sings in Psalm 139. People matter to God and He reveals this by the care and attention He shows in His creation of them.

### God knows every person intimately and completely from the very beginning.

*"My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance..."*

- God knows each person completely because He creates each life. All life begins with God. It comes from Him because He is the Creator and source of life. God allows life to begin in the womb and it is His creative powers that form each baby.
- God knows each unborn life intimately because He designs them. No life in the womb is accidental or of no value. God knows each person before a mother even knows she's pregnant.

### God ordains every person's length of life.

*"...in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."*

- If we truly want to know ourselves, we must first know God. He understands us so completely because He ordains our lives. He knows when our lives will begin and when they will end. Our lives are held in His hands. Even before we breath our first breath on earth, He knows the number of our days.
- He knows who we are as people even better than we do. Since He is the source of all life and our Creator, He, alone, knows each person fully and completely.

# OUR SIGNIFICANCE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS FOUND IN OUR MAKER

## BIG IDEA #1: GOD INTRICATELY AND INTENTIONALLY FORMED EVERY PART OF WHO WE ARE.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Psalm 139 is a song of praise to our omniscient, omnipotent, and omni-present God. The psalmist praises God's intricate and intentional creation of him in verses 13-16. God's intricate creation of man is cause for worship. The Psalmist's praise of God for taking notice of him even when he was in his mother's womb reveals God's intricate creation of man. God forms each person in the womb. He allows their conception and intricately weaves their bodies together as they grow in their mother's womb. No life is random or an accident to God. It is God who gives life and allows it to continue. He is not surprised by anyone's birth because He is the one who creates it and numbers its days. Every person's life begins with God.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How does the knowledge that God intricately and intentionally formed you change the way you view yourself?**

Isaiah 45:12 says that God made the earth and created man on it. God has a purpose for every person as His Word teaches us. No life is random or accidental. Ephesians 2:10 teaches us that man is God's workmanship and is created for good works that God prepared for us even before we were born. Our lives matter and God's creation of us reveals that.

### [ THIS ]

Psalm 139:15-16 paints a picture of God as our master Creator, a Creator who invests great care and detail into His creation. The creation narrative reveals the way in which God set man apart from the rest of His creation. Psalm 139 further elaborates on God's intricate and intentional design for mankind. In Job 10:11, Job says of God, "You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews." God is our great Creator. Everything about our being is intentional, purposeful, and every person is valuable. God's intentionality in man's creation process reveals His care for each person. As the Psalmist declares, God is involved in every life even before conception. Even before we are conceived in our mother's womb, God knows the number of our days on this earth. He is the master Creator and our lives are a gift from Him.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How does knowing that others are created and known by God help you love people rightly?**

1 John 4:7 teaches us that love is from God and we are commanded to love others. When we see others as image bearers, we will love them as God's creations. In John 15:12, Jesus tells His followers to love others as He has loved them, setting an example for how we are to love people. Lastly, Romans 13:8 reminds us of the importance to show love to all because we are loved greatly by God.

**How can knowing that you're not an accident but were intentionally created by God give you purpose this week?**

When we live with the knowledge that we are intentionally created for God's glory, we can live out 1 Peter 1:14-15. As we seek to obey God's Word, we will seek God's glory over our own as Psalm 115:1 teaches. Living for God's glory means seeing each day as a gift to be used for God's glory by walking in obedience to His Word. We will love others, share the gospel, and serve others as a way of obeying God.

1. Psalm 139:13-16: God intentionally creates each person and knows everything about them.

# OUR SIGNIFICANCE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS FOUND IN OUR MAKER

## BIG IDEA #2: GOD MADE EVERY PERSON SIMULTANEOUSLY UNIQUE AND DEPENDENT.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Psalm 139:14 speaks of the magnificent way in which God, the Creator, forms His people. The creative process begins in the womb as God fashions each person according to His plan. Every person is created unique, each different from the next in abilities, talents, and skills. Deuteronomy 32:6 teaches us that it is God who establishes us and gives us the talents, skills, and abilities that we have and He does so for His glory. We see this truth in Isaiah 43:7 when God declares through His prophet, “everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” We all have skills that God creates us with that are unique to us. Some people are naturally good artists, writers, mathematicians, or inventors. We all have traits unique to us given to us by God when He created us. Our skills, talents, and abilities are not the same as the spiritual gifts we receive when we have saving faith. Instead, these abilities are what we are each born with.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Exodus 35:10-26. How is the passage an example of how our unique talents and abilities can be used for God’s glory?**

God’s people used their talents and abilities, like weaving and masonry to build the Temple of God in Exodus. God has given each person abilities and talents that we can use for His glory. Just as God’s people used their seemingly ordinary abilities and talents for His purposes, we can, too.

### [ THIS ]

God creates each of us as dependent beings. Psalm 139:7-12 shows us just how dependent we each are. There is no place we can go to escape God because God is everywhere. Not only is He everywhere, all things depend upon Him. He gives life and sustains; therefore, we are always dependent upon Him for the air we breathe, the world we live in, and our very lives. God makes us dependent upon Him and others. We each need God and we need one another. We also are dependent upon Him for our purpose. Without Him, we cannot truly feel everlasting satisfaction or fulfillment. When we pursue a life of independence and self-reliance, we are believing a lie that we are self-sufficient.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Knowing God is always present everywhere, how can you practically and intentionally pursue his presence this week?**

Psalm 139:1-5 shows us that God is all around us. He knows everything about us and is present everywhere. Proverbs 15:3 tells us that God is always watching, good and evil. Jeremiah 23:24 reminds us that there is nowhere that God is not and He knows all. When we live in this truth, we live knowing that every part of our day matters and holds significance to God and should be lived for Him.

**In what areas of your life have you tried to be self-reliant or independent?**

It is pride that leads us to seek independence from God and self-reliance. When we think we know better ourselves or can accomplish our own salvation or happiness, pride is ruling in our hearts. Proverbs 13:10 and 26:12 serve as a warning to those who are ruled by pride. Destruction is sure when we seek to live separately from God.

2. Psalm 139:14: God fearfully and wonderfully creates man. We can see the wonderful works of God in people as they reflect the image of God in the world.

# OUR SIGNIFICANCE AS IMAGE BEARERS IS FOUND IN OUR MAKER

## BIG IDEA #3: GOD KNOWS US BETTER THAN WE KNOW OURSELVES.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

We like to believe that we know ourselves and even know others, too. We believe that the means to knowing ourselves is through life experiences and looking to the world around us for life's meaning. We can only truly know ourselves by knowing God because only God knows us completely. Psalm 139:1-6 beautifully illustrates the deep knowledge God has of each of us. He knows our thoughts and words even before we think them or speak them. He knows the direction our life will take, the questions we will ask, and the number of days we'll live. In order to know ourselves, we must seek to know God and by knowing God, we will understand who we are created to be. We know God by seeking Him in His Word. We discover who He is and how He works in our lives. When we begin to learn these things, we will understand God and ourselves.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What ways does the world tell you that you can know yourself?**

Because all things are made through God and for Him, when we seek to know ourselves apart from Him, we are seeking ourselves above Him. Romans 2:8 warns us of seeking ourselves above seeking God. John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16 remind us that everything is made by God and it is made for Him. In order to truly know ourselves, we must know God. The world leads us to believe that we can know ourselves through experiences and pursuing our dreams. It teaches us that our feelings help us know ourselves.

**Read Psalm 139:1-7. How can a knowledge of God help us know ourselves?**

Hebrews 4:12 shows us the power of God's Word in our lives. By knowing God's Word, we know God and it is that power that can help us understand ourselves and fulfill our purpose. Psalm 119:105 also shows us that by knowing God and His Word, we can know our right path and live out our created purpose.

### [ THIS ]

Often we believe the lie that our hearts should guide us. The world tells us to follow our hearts and to only do what we feel like doing. The truth is that we cannot really know ourselves by trusting our hearts or allowing our feelings to guide us. Scripture teaches us that God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows our hearts better than we do. Jeremiah 17:9-10 shows us just how deceptive our hearts are and how well God knows us. Because of this truth, we cannot allow ourselves to be led by our wicked hearts. Instead, we must aim our hearts to God and seek a knowledge of Him above all things. We aim our hearts by knowing His Word and seeking to obey it in every way, regardless of how we may feel in the moment. When we set our hearts to know God, the result will be a greater knowledge of ourselves through the lens of our perfect Father.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**In what instances have you trusted your heart only to discover its deceptiveness?**

Proverbs 14:12 reminds us of the trap we all fall into. We often think we know a way that is right and good, but if we are not seeking God's knowledge and understanding, we are following our deceptive hearts. Proverbs 4:23 warns us to guard our hearts and to keep them from leading us to our destruction. We can think we know better and understand ourselves better than God, but in the end, if we follow our own reasoning, we will be led away and our lives will end in destruction.

3. Psalm 139:1-6: God understands man better than we could ever understand ourselves because He is our Creator.