

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ We were made for God. The Westminster catechism says it this way: "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." Put more simply, we were created to glorify God and to enjoy Him. Is this the chief aim of your life? Or are you living for something other than God? What do you think it would look like to live for Him?
- ❖ In what areas of your life do you feel continually distant from God and/or other people? What do you think is the cause of this distance? What is the solution?
- ❖ Take a minute to reflect on John 3:16. It's a verse we've heard so many times that we often lose our sense of wonder over the truth it reveals. Imagine the one thing in your life that is so valuable to you, you would have a very hard time giving it up. Is it a child? A loved one? A prized possession? Now imagine giving that up to help an enemy: someone who has betrayed you and is ill deserving of your love. This is just a small glimpse of the picture of God's love for us in sending His only son to die for us.
- ❖ Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Is there an area of your life that you struggle to believe God can make new? As we enter into the New Year, I challenge you to give that area of your life up to God. Even if you don't normally do it, write out some goals for this New Year. What areas of your life do you want to experience "new"? Get specific, break it down into measurable goals and write it down. For more help on how to goal set, check out Zig Ziglar's article at: <http://www.goals2go.com/articles/zig-ziglar-goal-setting.htm>.
- ❖ Where are you most struggling to see hope right now: your past, present or future? Spend some time together in prayer; asking God to breath hope into the places you need it the most.



"Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer"

1. Made

Genesis 1:27 (NIV) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

*** *We are from God and for God.***

2. Distant

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NIV) Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

3. Sent

John 3:16-17 (NIV) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Matthew 1:23 (NIV) "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

4. New

Colossians 1:15a (NIV) He is the image of the invisible God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**Heart
Perspective
Feelings**

**Identity
Desires
Purpose**

**Family
Thoughts
Future**

5. Hope

* For your past

Romans 8:33-34 (NCV) Who can accuse the people God has chosen? No one, because God is the One who makes them right. Who can say God's people are guilty? No one, because Christ Jesus died, but he was also raised from the dead, and now he is on God's right side, appealing to God for us.

* For your present

Romans 8:1-3 (NLT) So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power^a of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death...He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

* For your future

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NIV) Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Additional message notes & actions to take:

Bible Versions used: KJV-King James; NKJV-New King James; NIV-New International; NCV-New Century; TLB-Living Bible; NLT-New Living Translation; Msg-The Message; GW-God's Word; TEV-Today's English; CEV-Contemporary English; NAS - New American Standard; NJB-New Jerusalem Bible; HCSB-Holman Christian Standard; Phi-Phillips Translation; Amp-Amplified Bible; NRSV-New Revised Standard

NorthPointe Community Church 5470 W. Spruce, # 105, Fresno, CA 93722
email: danielbunker@northpointe.org