



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2024 | AN IMAGE TO BEAR

WARM-UP QUESTION

What word best sums up how you feel walking into the new year?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read Colossians 1:15-20

- What stood out to you in this text? What words or themes do you see?
- How does this passage relate to finding your purpose?
- Before we move on to finding our purpose, we must start by recognizing who God is. How does knowing who God is connect to our purpose? How would your life look different if you lived from a place of fully embracing who God is?
- Can you think of any other passages or stories in Scripture that point us toward finding our purpose? Read through passages together and discuss. (Suggestion: [Romans 12](#))
- Where do you see God as the hero of the story? Note: This may not have an obvious answer. Allow this to start a conversation about how God is always working and the ways He moves behind the scenes.

Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG), *"It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone."*

Colossians 1:16 (MSG), *"We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything... got started in him and finds its purpose in him."*

- What themes do you see in these texts?
- Where do you see God in these Scriptures? What difference does He make?
- We were made by God and for God. How does this impact our purpose?
- Having a personal relationship with Jesus is crucial as we work to discover our purpose in Him. Can you think of any ways you've seen this play out in your life or the lives of those around you?



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RESPOND

- Have you ever experienced “feeling God’s pleasure”?
- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He’s prompting you to do this week.