

Review:

Lesson 1: Life Begins w/Jesus

Lesson 2: In God's Image

Lesson 3: Abundant Life

Lesson 4: Finding Hope

Lesson 5: All About Love

Lesson 6: Future Glory

Diverse Community

Revelation 5:9-10

When we follow Jesus, we get a new operating system, which makes our identity in Christ the foremost identity in our life...all other identities, while still present, are now in the background. We are flying a new flag; we are singing a _____.

Discussion 1. Do you remember your primary (most important) “identity” before you began following Jesus? If so, how did your identity in Christ become more important? How did you move that prior identity into the background to its proper place?

The kind of community for which we, as humans, were designed finds unity in its worship of the only God worthy of that worship. When our eyes are on the _____, our other differences no longer matter.

Discussion 2. Have you ever worshipped with people with whom you had enormous cultural differences? How were you able to worship together despite those differences?

There is wonderful and unimaginable diversity in the kingdom of God as it exists in this world today. Our ability to thrive in that diversity is tied to our ability to distinguish between our faith and our _____ of our faith.

Discussion 3. What do you think is at the root of our tendency to criticize other Christian cultures' ways of worship? If you have spent anytime worshipping in cultures different from your own, what has it taught you?

The wondrous diversity in God's kingdom also drives our understanding of being _____, of sorts, in our own cultures. My place in my culture is for a time, but my citizenship in God's kingdom is for eternity.

Discussion 4. How does thinking of yourself as an “exile” in this culture help you better navigate the divisiveness in it? For you, what are some ramifications of merely “passing through” this world rather than being a permanent citizen in it?