

INVITATION TO *IMAGINE*

Invitation To Imagine Series

Small Group Material

Participant Guide

Part 1 - "Imagine God"

March 4th, 2018

Bottom Line: *If you make understanding and explaining matter too much, you'll miss the thing your heart has been searching for.*

Study Verses: *1 Corinthians 2:6-10, John 1:14-16, Psalm 34:3*

Key Points

- *Everyone has thoughts about God and what He should do.*
- *We imagine God in the image of what we worship.*
- *The ways of God run against the wisdom of the world in which we live.*
- *Grace always expands and makes us see more.*
- *We believe the best way to understand is to reduce. We love to break complex things down into their parts.*
- *We attempt to understand in order to explain. We like truth because we can break it down into parts and explain it.*
- *Jesus frames our thinking and serves as our beginning in understanding God's character, nature and heart.*
- *Jesus is full of grace and truth. From Christ's fullness we receive grace upon grace.*
- *We don't understand God by breaking down principles and doctrines, but by looking up and having our eyes expanded.*

ENCOUNTER

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important about us." -A.W. Tozer

- **Read the quote from A.W. Tozer. Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not? How does our picture of God influence our actions, words, emotions and sense of identity?**
- **Fill in the blank: God is _____. What makes you answer in the way that you do?**
- **Over the years how has your view of God developed and changed?**

FORMATION

- **Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-10. What does God reveal to us about Himself over time? What are "the things" that the author is talking about in verse 10? How do the ways of God and His wisdom run against the wisdom of the world we live in?**
- **Read John 1:14-16. How does the life of Jesus serve as our best way to understand God's character, nature, and heart? What do we receive by comprehending and trusting in Christ's fullness?**
- **Read Psalm 34:3. How does the verse serve as an invitation to imagine and see God in a different light and from a different perspective?**

EXPRESSION

- **When you think of God, what is the default emotion (shame, guilt, hope, love, fear, etc.) you experience? Why do you feel this way towards God? How do you think He feels about the way you feel about Him?**
- **How willing are you to take a step back and examine your picture of God?**
- **What would it look like for God to reintroduce Himself to you? Where do you need to see Him with fresh eyes?**