



Journal

Chapter 7: HUMANITY

Personal Study

Last week you took a deeper look at the role of the church in God's great plan. Did you recognize the part that you personally play in that plan? If you are not part of a local church, consider finding a church home—a place where you can get involved in accomplishing God's plan for the world. This week before your group meeting, read *Believe, Chapter 7: Humanity*. Then spend some time allowing the Scripture to take root in your heart and praying that God would reveal to you why it's easier for you to love some people and groups than others.

Read

Read *Believe, Chapter 7: Humanity* and answer the following questions.

1. What patterns do you observe in these Scriptures?

2. As you read these passages, what questions came to mind?

3. What did you read that disarmed you?

Tested you? _____

Enthused you? _____

Confused you? _____

4. In what way is humanity set apart from the rest of God's creation?

How does our part of the creation story differ from the rest? _____

5. In your opinion, which section of this chapter demonstrates God's faithful love the most? Why?

6 Why is it easier to classify our personal sin as "not that bad" but the sin of others as "detestable"?

Why does God not see it this way? _____

7. Is there a certain race, political affiliation, age group, nationality, or socioeconomic crowd that is hard for you to love? What needs to change in order for you to see them the way God sees them?

How can the Holy Spirit help make this change happen? _____

8. Think of a time when God changed your heart toward a person or people group. How did this change come about?

Evaluate

Based on your reading from *Believe*, Chapter 7: Humanity, evaluate your level of confidence in the statements below, using a 1–6 scale (1 = no confidence, 6 = complete certainty).

_____ I believe that each person possesses a sinful nature and is in need of God’s forgiveness.

_____ I believe we are created in the image of God and therefore have equal value, regardless of race, religion, or gender.

_____ I believe all people are loved by God; therefore I too should love them.

_____ I believe the Holy Spirit is God and dwells in Christians to empower them to live the Christian life.

Take Action

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week’s Key Verse to memory.

Key Verse: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Recite this week’s Key Idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, does my life reflect this statement?

Key Idea: I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior..

Answer the following questions to help you apply this week’s Key Idea to your own life.

1. What behaviors help you recognize someone who believes all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior?

2. What, if anything, hinders you from fully loving people the way God loves them?

3. What is something you can do this week to demonstrate this belief?
