

# In His Image

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens. . . .  
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?  
. . . .O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
Psalm 8:1, 3-4, 9

1. Created in His Image
2. Identity Crisis – Recovering from amnesia
3. Jesus, Our Model
4. Created and Creative
5. Relationships / Compassion
6. Justice (Not “just us”!)
7. Bearing Fruit – God in us
8. Hiding our True Identity – Will the real child of God please, stand up.
9. Identity Theft – Who stole yours?
10. The Church – Where we find out true identity
11. The Church –A refuge for lost identities
12. Salt and Light – Living your legacy

## Preface

In 2010, when I wrote the Women of LIFE study for 2011, I had “retired” (job cut) so I was able to spend one full month immersed in God’s Word. My original plan had been to write one lesson each month of the year but busyness got the best of me so, instead, for one month I worked on the study almost every day and usually 12 – 15 hours a day. After that intense time, when I was done and got back to “real life”, I missed being able to spend that kind of time with God in His Word and determined then that I wanted to write another study.

As questions and thoughts about God, faith, life, etc. went through my head, I would make notes. Sometimes I would be driving and would pull off to the side of the road to write them down so I wouldn’t forget. I kept coming back to the idea of being created in God’s image. Do we look like Him? Are we like Him? In 2011 I knew that I wanted to look deeper into this subject for a future study. I would think about it all the time and hoped that the Women of LIFE board would someday ask me again to write a study. Well, that was 2011 before life became filled with distractions.

2012 brought a cancer diagnosis for my husband, surgery and chemo. In 2013 I began a new, often more than full-time job as the business administrator at St. Peter’s. The focus of 2014 was my husband’s death and learning what it was to be a widow after being married for 39 years. Needless to say, there was no Bible study being written.

In 2015, God blessed me by calling my son, Joe, as a pastor at St. Peter’s. This brought a lot of changes to life as I now have four grandchildren close by. This means there are soccer games and gymnastics meets to attend, birthdays to celebrate, and Sunday dinners to enjoy. While it was and is an incredible blessing, it was also a major adjustment after having no kids around for the past 15 years.

In 2016, it was determined that I would write another study, probably for 2018. This was plenty of time and I planned to spread it out over the next year since my job precluded the possibility of taking a month off to write the study. But God had an even bigger surprise for me in 2016.

I had dealt with being a widow for almost two years but I suddenly came to the realization that I wasn’t married anymore. That may seem odd, but even being alone, I had still felt married. Understanding that I was no longer married began a whole new stage of grief and feeling alone and lonely. One night I told God that I didn’t want to be alone for the rest of my life but I couldn’t even begin to imagine what that would look like. I was 18 when I got married, just starting life. How do you do that when you’re 60 and lots of life behind you? I told God that if it was His plan, He would have to take care of it, because I couldn’t even imagine.

Well, God did just that. He gave me hope when I felt hopeless. A few months later, a deeper relationship began to develop with an old friend whose wife had passed away two months after my husband, and in February of 2017 we were married. Life is wonderful and busy and amazing and I thank God every day but perhaps you can see that it might make it difficult to focus on writing.

The study you have in your hands is a collaborative effort. While I had made a commitment to write the study for 2018 and really wanted to make it happen, I wasn’t sure how I would find the time. That’s when I realized that I didn’t have to do this alone and I reached out to 5 wonderful ladies at St. Peter’s who love the Lord and are dedicated to His Word. I presented them with the outline for the study and each one agreed to write one or two of the lessons. I am so very grateful for their commitment, their time and, most of all, their friendship and love. It is my hope and prayer that God will use our six perspectives to bring you an even fuller and complete study than I had written it alone. God bless you as you study His Word and discover what it is to be made “In His Image”.