

### WARM-UP

- Describe the weirdest picture or scenario you have ever seen. What made it look odd?
- Have you tried using a face filter? How does it make you feel looking at an image of yourself that you do not recognize?
- Tell us about something you have created (e.g., painting, story, art, photo). What inspired you to create it?

**WORD** *And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. **GENESIS 1:31***

When we look at the world around us, what we see—including destruction and injustice—is far from ideal. Our lives are marked by how we have adapted to this fallen world. But this was not God’s plan when He created the universe. So what happened? Let’s look at God’s word to discover His plan for us and the rest of creation, and what disrupted it. Today, let us see how the way we live will be shaped by the truths in His word.

## 1 | God created the entire universe.

*<sup>31</sup>And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. <sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. **GENESIS 1:31-2:2***

(Study **GENESIS 1.**)

In the beginning, God created everything out of nothing just by the power of His word. He spoke the world and all that is in it into being. He also brought order from chaos and disorder (Genesis 1:1-2) and designed the natural order of things. That is why God is the only true Creator. To this day, He sustains and governs creation for His glory and for our benefit. Knowing this, what should our posture be? (Matthew 6:25-26)

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## 2 | God created man in His own image.

*<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **GENESIS 1:26-27***

(Read also **GENESIS 1:28-30; 2:4-9, 15-25.**)

God made humans, both male and female, in His image and likeness. Like God, we have the ability to think, feel, communicate, be creative, and be in a relationship with Him and others. Being made in His image means that God has called us to be His stewards and representatives on earth,

reflecting His character, heart, and will. This also speaks of each person's inherent value. Regardless of our background or status, our lives matter to God. He loves us so much that He desires a relationship with us and has set a purpose for us (Genesis 1:28). How do you think this could change the way we see God, ourselves, and others?

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### 3 Sin distorted the image of God in man and corrupted creation.

*<sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field . . ." **GENESIS 3:11-14***

(Study **GENESIS 3**.)

After creating the world, God blessed the man and woman, and gave them stewardship over creation (Genesis 1:28). He also gave them a command with a consequence—not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17). One day, a cunning serpent deceived them into mistrusting and disobeying God. Because of this, God's good design was tarnished, His image in humanity was distorted by sin, and our relationships with God, each other, and creation were broken. Furthermore, the rest of creation had been corrupted and became subject to death and decay. What does Romans 8:20–24 say about the state of humanity and creation?

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The good news is that God did not leave us in our sinful, fallen state. Even in the midst of our fallenness, God already had a plan to redeem mankind (Genesis 3:14–15). It was fulfilled when God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to restore His image in us and our relationship with Him. Our response to this is faith in His finished work.

## APPLICATION

- Knowing that you were made in the image of God, what does this tell you about your God-given identity? How do you think this should affect your daily life?
- In what ways do you see brokenness and injustice around you? How can you bring hope and be a steward of God’s creation instead?
- Who do you think needs to hear this message of sin and salvation? How can you share this with him or her this week?

## PRAYER

- In a world that seeks identity in many places and people, pray that your identity would be secure in God alone.
- Ask God to give you the grace to participate in God’s mission of restoring creation, people, and relationships, living every day in light of being made in His image.
- Pray that everything you do for others would be motivated by love, and that it would lead them to a relationship with God as well.



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