

Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

God's Image

[Genesis 1:20-31](#)

Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Describe the last time you experienced God's creation. What was the occasion and setting? How did it make you feel about God? What responsibility did you feel for his creation?
2. Have you ever had someone represent you or have you ever represented anyone else (had 'power of attorney')? What responsibility did you expect from (or feel from) the person?

Study It: Connecting with God's Word

1. [v. 21] Who are the "great sea creatures" ("great sea monsters," NASB)? Why would they be included here?
2. [v. 22,28] What does the word "blessed" mean?
3. [v. 26] List the ways that humans differ in God's creation from other living things.
4. [v. 28] What does it mean for humans to have "dominion" (or "rule") over the sky, sea and land?
5. [v. 28] What does it mean to be created in "the image of God?" How does the additional phrase "after our likeness" qualify it? For which one human being alone can it be said that he is "in the image of God" without qualification ([Colossians 1:15](#); [2 Corinthians 4:4](#))?
6. [v. 31] Discuss the reasons why God would use the word "good" to describe the individual acts of creation but "very good" when viewing his entire creation.

Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. Does the knowledge that you are created in the "image" of God have any meaning to you on a practical daily bases? On reflection, how could it? What responsibilities and what resources does it give you?
2. What moral obligation do we as Christians, who know that we are created in God's image, have to maintain and support God's creation? What responsibility do we have as God's regents – his representative on earth – to act on his behalf? What does it mean to have "dominion" (to rule over) God's creation? How well do you think you have used and preserved his creation?

Recycled questions from last week:

3. Do you often experience God in creation? When you do, is it usually a big thing or can it be a small thing such as a blade of grass or insect? Why, even though as Christians we believe that God created all things, is it sometimes difficult for us to experience God in his creation?
4. How do you view Genesis 1? Do you see it as a one-time act of creation similar to a watchmaker who winds up a clock and then lets the laws of nature continue to 'tick' with little further intervention? Or do you see God as continually present, moving his creation forward to his ultimate redemption? How would these two views affect your prayer life?