

NOTES

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2, and Colossians 3:23-24

REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?
2. Have you ever thought about the personal touch of God in the creation of human beings? Does this impact you or your thoughts of how God values you or knows you?
3. What kinds of things do you enjoy creating or working at?

MY STORY

1. Myron talked quite a bit about identity. When you hear the word identity, what does that mean to you?
2. Why is it so important that we understand our identity (who am I) and are able to answer the identity question for ourselves?
3. What is your identity rooted in or based on? Has this always been the case? If not, what has changed?

In The Beginning
Week 2
Life As It Was Meant To Be

Myron Jellison
Next Gen Pastor
May 1, 2022

4. Myron said, "Our value is significantly more than we settle for." What does that mean? Do you agree with this? Have you experienced this in your life?
5. Do you believe there are any distinct differences between males and females? If you believe there are differences, how can each have been created in the image of God?
6. Do you believe the creation account Myron shared for how God created man and woman is a literal account of our origin? Why or why not? Discuss in your Life Groups this week.
7. God created us in His image as the pinnacle of His creation. What does this mean? Do you believe you were created in God's image? How does this influence and impact the way you live your life?
8. Do you think your life is valuable or of value? To whom? Why do you believe your life is valuable?
9. How does the creation story impact the way you view and care for the world around us?
10. Do you find it easy or hard to rest? What does resting mean or look to you? If you struggle with resting, why do you think that is? Do you think it's important that we intentionally take regular breaks to rest as part of God's creation?
11. Why is work important? Do you believe God has put a call to work on you? Do you believe you are doing the work He called you to?
12. The first time in the Bible that we read that something was "not good" was in Genesis 2:18. Why do you think this was not good?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Romans 3:22-31 and Romans 6:15-23.

1. Myron used the analogy of a \$20 bill to show that even when it's dirty, ripped, or covered in filth, it still has the same value as when it's new and fresh; likewise, each of us have been created in God's image and we still hold that same value regardless of the scars we carry and the mistakes we've made (our sin). Do you believe that to be true for you?

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2. What do the passages in this section (Romans 3:22-31 and Romans 6:15-23) say to you about how God views our value in light of our sin?
3. Given these scripture passages, what is God calling us to do regarding our sin, and what does He promise us in return?

Read Galatians 5:13-26.

1. Myron shared. "your feelings may be real, but they are not always reliable or a true measure of your identity in who God created you to be." What does this mean?
2. How do you live this out when facing temptations, your own personal baggage, and predispositions toward sin?
3. What does this scripture passage tell us about our own ability to live this out in our own strength?
4. Who or what does God give us to enable us to embrace our identity in Christ and live out God's will for us?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Read Genesis 2:7. What about this passage sticks out to you? What does it mean that God breathed the "breath of life" into man's nostrils? Why is this important?
2. Do you believe we were designed on purpose, or are we here on accident? If we were designed on purpose, why is it important to align your life with the plan of the Designer?
3. How does the fact that we were all created in God's image and all human life has dignity impact the causes you support and the things you work hard for? How does it impact how you view and what action you take regarding issues facing our society, such as abortion, the sex slave trade, and basic human rights?
4. What does it mean to be a good steward of God's creation? Why is this important? How is our responsibility to be good stewards related to the role and position God gave us in all of creation?

5. How does your identity impact your willingness to rest (for example taking a Sabbath) intentionally? How do you balance the two Biblical concepts of the importance of hard work with the need to intentionally and regularly rest? Why do you think God provided us with a model for rest before He gave man a call to work? How are you personally doing with God's command to intentionally and regularly rest?
6. Read Colossians 3:23-24. Are you joining God in your work to do everything unto Him and glorify Him with your work? Why do you answer this way? How are you serving the Lord in the work you are doing? Where are you succeeding in this? Where could you be doing better? What will you do about this? Talk about this in your Life Group and pray for one another for each of you to meet the call God has on each of your lives.
7. God made us to be creative. Myron talked about how video games can hijack our creativity, but video games aren't the only things that can distract us in this way. What do you have in your life that distracts you from creating and working in the way God is calling you? Why do you permit this distraction in your life? What are you going to do about it?
8. In Genesis 2:18, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper comparable to (or suitable or fit for) him." What does it mean that God created woman in this way? Why do you think this account makes it a point to define the helper as comparable to, fit for, or suitable for (depending on the translation)? If you're married, do you view your spouse in this way? Do you treat your spouse in this way?
9. When God made man and woman, He said that was "very good." Why do you think God saw this as "very good"? Do you see yourself under the label God gave that His creation of you was very good?
10. As defined in Genesis, marriage is between a man and woman, and God created sex in marriage as a gift to us. Do you believe this? Is the way you are living your life faithful to this?
11. God has dominion over all of our identity (He made them male and female) as well as over marriage. Why do you think this is such a loaded topic in today's society? How do you see this playing out in society?
12. Who is God to you? Read John 3:16-17, 2 Peter 3:9, and 1 John 1:8-10. What do these passages say about God's nature? What are you going to do with your answer to that?

Your Next Steps Is: If you are struggling with an area of sin or a predisposition to sin, God loves you, and your church loves you (see 1 John 1:8-10 above). Please let us come alongside you in your struggle. Stop by and get prayer after church. Contact the church and ask someone to listen and pray with you. We strongly believe that helping people find and follow God includes supporting and caring for one another. "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ" Galatians 6:2