

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Divine Design • Week of January 22

Read: Genesis 1:20-25, Matthew 19:4-6

Further Study: Read Lee Strobel's *A Case for a Creator* and/or *Bonding* by Dr. Donald Joy

Goal: God is concerned about His image---He wants to be valued, yet God is even more concerned that His image be restored in us.

Before the Video

- Note the significance of the text “each producing offspring of the same kind”.
- Why does the text say, “And God saw that it was good”? Does God need approval? Or, what does the approval say to what God has done? What does it say to us?

After the Video

- Discuss the importance of God's affirmation of creation. Is it worth restoring once it has been tainted?
- God didn't create for the moment. Share how “what is good” should continue (Legacy).

Digging into the Bible—Read Genesis 1:26-27

- We are created in the Imago Dei, the image of God. God made us male and female. Share how important this maleness and female nature is a fuller reflection of God in relationships, in the home among children, in our church and in our community?
- God made them male and female before the fall. They were to rule over the earth, animals, birds and plants. Adam and Eve were not to rule over each other. When did Eve and Adam attempt to rule over each other? What is God's Divine Design for Relationships here?

Going Deeper & Action Steps

- God created humanity in God's image. A portion of God's DNA was implanted in each of us. When Adam and Eve chose, due to free will, to eat of the fruit they fell into sin. However, God showed mercy and did not kill them. God came looking for Adam and Eve to restore the relationship. Who initiated restoration in the Garden?
- Discuss why it is important to comprehend that Evangelism is God's idea—to restore us.

- Read Matthew 19:4-6. Jesus declares, “God made them male and female” and marriage is between a man and woman. How would relationships and marriages be healthier if we chose not to rule over each other, but instead to compliment and serve each other?
- How can the church be loving and welcoming to persons who hold different views while being steadfastly holding onto the truths of Jesus’ own words and those of Scripture?

Prayer - Lift up the beauty and power of God reflected in male and female imagery. Ask the Holy Spirit that we might reflect more of the loving legacy of God to others.

One Year Bible Reading

January 22: Genesis 44:1-45:28, Matthew 14:13-36, Psalm 18:37-50, Prov. 4:11-13
 January 23: Genesis 46:1-47:31, Matthew 15:1-28, Psalm 19:1-14, Prov. 4:14-19
 January 24: Genesis 48:1-49:33, Matthew 15:29-16:12, Ps. 20:1-9, Prov. 4:20-27
 January 25: Genesis 50:1 - Exodus 2:10, Matt. 16:13-17:9, Ps. 21:1-13, Prov.5:1-6
 January 26: Exodus 2:11-3:22, Matthew 17:10-27, Psalm 22:1-18, Proverbs 5:7-14
 January 27: Exodus 4:1-5:21, Matthew 18:1-20, Psalm 22:19-31, Proverbs 5:15-21
 January 28: Exodus 5:22-7:25, Matthew 18:21-19:12, Ps. 23:1-6, Proverbs 5:22-23

DIVINE DESIGN FOR RELATIONSHIPS

Text: Genesis 1:20-25, 26-28, Genesis 3:6-13,
Matthew 17:1-8

PLAIN TRUTH:

Though God _____ his _____
he came to _____ ours.

1. A _____ Theology—not one of _____.
2. God’s Design _____ beyond the _____.