

WEEK 2: THE BEGINNING: CREATION

Core Truth: God created us to be his image-bearers.

Key Bible Verses:

Genesis 1:1-31; Psalm 139:13-14

New City Catechism: Questions 4 & 5

Review/Recall:

1. What is the question of identity? For purpose?
2. We all find our identity by being part of bigger stories.
3. Our deepest identity is found in being part of God's story.
4. God's Story has four parts:
 - The Beginning: Creation (Wheee!) - Week 2
 - The Challenge: Fall (Oh no!) - Week 3
 - The Solution: Redemption (Whew!) - Week 4
 - The End: New Creation (Yay!) - Week 5

1. God begins his story by creating with great delight

Tov, the Hebrew word for good is God's ultimate approval.

It describes everything God does and everything God makes.

Tov is God's way of saying, "That's it! That's what I designed! That's excellent! That's good!"

-Laura Barringer

Genesis 1:1-31

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was **good**, and he separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

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6 And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” **7** So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. **8** God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

9 And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. **10** God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was **good**.

11 Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. **12** The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was **good**. **13** And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. **16** God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. **17** God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, **18** to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was **good**. **19** And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

20 And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” **21** So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was **good**. **22** God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” **23** And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

24 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. **25** God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was **good**.

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26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

29 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. **30** And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was **very good**. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

This declaration of God-given goodness is the starting point for all of our stories.

Psalm 139:13-14 - For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

What is one thing you really like about yourself?

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2. Our special identity and purpose it to be God's image-bearers.

Image = to look similar to someone else.

Bearer = to carry that similarity wherever you go.

Being an image-bearer is both:

- who we are (identity)
- what we are called to do (purpose)

What attributes of God did your group find?

3. The complete image of God can only be lived out together

**How and why did
God create us?**

God created us male and female in his image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

New City Catechism Question 4

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Discussion Questions

1. What day of creation do you wish you could have witnessed? How do you think you would have felt watching it?

2. On a scale of 1-10 how easy is it for you to think of God delighting in you? How would it change your week to think of it more often?

3. Who is one person in your life who shows you something of God's character? This is what it means to be an image-bearer. Who is it and what do you characteristic do you see in them?

4. What's one thing you learned today? About yourself? About God?

5. Are there any questions we want to ask Pastor Daryl?