

Opening

- 1. Pray:** Gracious God, thank you for creating us in your image. Thank you that before we did anything, you looked at us and said, *"It is very good."* Open our eyes today to see your image in ourselves, in others, and in the world you made. Teach us to live as people of your Original Goodness. Amen.
- 2. Share:** What's one photo of yourself (maybe from school, an ID card, or the DMV) that you've never liked? Why do you think we are so quick to notice flaws in ourselves?

Dive Into the Text

- In verse 26, what does it mean that humanity is created in the image and likeness of God?
- Verse 27 repeats the word "created" three times. What does this emphasis teach us about our identity and value?
- In verse 28, God blesses humanity with responsibility over creation. How is stewardship different from domination?
- Verse 31 says, *"God saw everything... it was very good."* How does this phrase shape the way we see ourselves and others?
- The Hebrew word *adam* (אָדָם) refers to humanity as a whole. How does this shape our understanding of who is included in God's image?



Genesis 1:26–31 (NRSV)

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

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

Genesis 1:26-31 (MSG)

²⁶⁻²⁸God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature

So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle,

And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”

God created human beings; he created them godlike,

Reflecting God’s nature. He created them male and female.

God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!

Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”

²⁹⁻³⁰ Then God said, “I’ve given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth

And every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food.

To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes,

I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.” And there it was.

³¹ God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!

It was evening, it was morning—Day Six.

Go Deeper

1. Many traditions emphasize original sin. How does Genesis 1 invite us to begin instead with *Original Goodness*?
2. John Wesley spoke of the natural, political, and moral image of God. How do you see those dimensions at work in everyday life?
 - Natural: our freedom to choose
 - Political: our call to steward creation
 - Moral: our capacity to love
3. How does Jesus Christ restore the image of God in us when sin and fear distort it?
4. If “God’s image means everyone belongs,” how might this truth change the way we treat people we find difficult?
5. What practices can help you remember each day: “*I am God’s image. I am Original Goodness*”?

Close in Prayer

Close your time in prayer together.