



Genesis

23-Mar: Creation

Series Summary: This is the story of God creating and bringing order and function into the earth, the rebellion of humanity against divine authority, and God's unfolding plan to restore creation and humankind to His original purposes through grace and faith. Genesis 1–11 tells of God and his relationship to the entire world.

Big Idea/Question: We learn so much about God's nature by how he created all things. The question is what does it mean for us to be image-bearers of God?

LIVE TEACHING

This Wednesday we will have live teaching before small groups. The live teaching will be centered on how the creation account teaches us so much about God's nature and our nature. In the large group live teaching I will focus on God's nature. In small-group we will be focusing on what it means for us to be image-bearers of God.

GET THEM TALKING

What did Russell say that stuck out to you?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(Image bearers)

Genesis 1:26-27 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.

Why does it say "let us make mankind in OUR image? I will give you a hint: this is terrible English...but great English.

Leader Note: Made in the image of community - We were made in the image of a perfect community (the triune God-head). This is a big reason why God made Eve because he knew that Adam, a single individual, needed someone else to be in community and fellowship with (Gen 2:18).

- It is also true that we are image-bearers of God because we can reason, we have a will, emotions, and a sense of morality. The same could not be said of the rest of God's creation.

Why does it matter that we were made in the image of perfect community?

Leader Note: We both need and desire to be a part of a community. We can easily convince ourselves that we do not need it, but I promise it is a lie. We desire to have healthy relationships. To use another word more commonly used in the Bible; we desire fellowship, both with God and others. However, not every community or relationship is healthy or God-honoring.

We don't just need any kind of community, we need a God-honoring biblical community. What does a God-honoring community look like?

Leader Note: Here are some suggestions. Encouraging, praying for one another, and thinking and saying the best of one another.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(rest from our work)

God modeled a healthy rhythm for us. We are to work and then rest from our work. This is a healthy rhythm that we as broken human beings mess up regularly.

Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. **2** By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh

day he rested from all his work. **3** Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

How do we mess up the rhythm of working and then resting from work that God modeled for us?

Leader Note: As is so often we miss a biblical principle on our way to one extreme.

- A) We refuse to work! We decide that being lazy is just fine and has no detrimental effects on our lives.
- B) We refuse to rest! This may be the most overlooked problem/sin in America.

Why is it so tempting to be lazy?

10-12 Grade- Does our culture encourage or accept laziness? How so?

How does being lazy affect our faith and walk with the Lord?

For Further Study: Proverbs 6:6-11 uses the example of an ant to be a model for us. This seems odd, but what's pointed out is that steady work keeps us from the excessive idle time that leads to sinful habits developing.

Why is it so tempting to never rest?

8-12 Grade- Is scrolling through social media rest? Is it spiritual rest?

When do you find time to rest? Not sleep, but rest.

How does refusing to rest affect our faith and walk with the Lord?

10-12 Grade- does the fact that we refuse to rest show that we have an idol in our lives? What would that idol be?

Which one is more tempting for you? To do nothing but rest, or do nothing but work? Which one do you have to make yourself do and why?