



Home Worship Guide – Genesis 1

Complement to sermon on January 13th, 2013

MEMORIZE

Genesis 1:27

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them.”

READ

Read Genesis 1

Genesis 1 provides a recount of creation. Notice the theme that repeats itself: God speaks, it happens, God declares that it is good. That is our creation story. What a powerful God! We also see order in creation. In fact, the context behind God “hovering over the waters” points directly to that. We need to understand that water represented chaos and evil in the ancient near east. Out of this chaos, God brings order. Out of this evil God brings forth things that he declares to be good.

The culmination of the creation story is when God creates mankind. The story builds to this point and so much about how the creation of mankind is written points to how truly special mankind is with respect to all other things that God created. First, in verse 26 we see God saying, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule...” Only mankind was made in God’s image. Only mankind was made in God’s image. And this sets mankind apart from all other creation. From the beginning, mankind was set to rule over creation.

There is another clue to show how important mankind is. All the rest of creation came from God speaking. Mankind came from God creating. Chapter 2 tells us that God “formed the man from the dust of the earth” much like a potter would form a piece of pottery. There is an idea of intimate and loving forming. This is drastically different than simply speaking and things happen. Mankind was crafted by the hands of God. And this means something to us all. Notice once mankind was created and installed as rulers of creation, it is recorded that “God saw all that He had made and it was very good.”

What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God? Verse 28 is a hint: extend the Kingdom of God throughout the earth. This is why mankind exists.

Discussion: (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. In what ways do we bear the image of God? What does it mean to bear the image of God?
2. What is a Kingdom? What is the Kingdom of God? What is it in Genesis 1? What is it in 2013?
3. How can a Christian extend the Kingdom of God in 2013? How can you? How can your family? How can your small group?

Bottom Line: Mankind alone was created in the image and likeness of God. Our lives find purpose only when we set our goal on extending His kingdom.

SING

Awesome God (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3PAJjXrSjY>)

As you sing this song, reflect on the images and the beauty of creation. Then let it sink in that in all that God created, ONLY mankind was made in His image!

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool (up to Kindergarten)

- Before you begin, gather these items: a rock, plant, glass of water, picture of an animal and lastly, your own preschooler
- Explain to your preschooler that God created many different things. But only one kind of creature was made in God's own image and likeness – people.
- Tell your preschooler you would like them to pick the object that would best resemble what their father or mother is like. Which object has the most in common with their parents as to how it looks, moves, eats, speaks, thinks, feels, acts, etc.? Briefly talk about each choice. For example, Is this plant like your mom or dad? Do plants move, eat or think like them? Can plants laugh, cry, pray and sing like we can? Repeat with each object until finally you get to your preschooler. Explain that they are like the image of adults. Children are not adults but are like adults in many ways. Explain that when God created humans He created us in His own image. We are not God but we are created to be like Him.
- Ask, "Why did God create us in His image?" God created us in His image for His glory! That means we were created to show the greatness of God. We are to reflect His greatness in everything we say, do think and feel. We are different from all other creation. We can show God's greatness to others.

Children (Grades 1-5)

- Question: What does it mean that man was created as God's image bearer? What does it mean to be created in the "image" of something?
- Parents, show photographs of yourself as a child to your child(ren). Or if your children are adopted, show pictures of yourself and your parents. Point out the similarities between your appearance and your children's appearance. Tell your children that because they are yours, there are things that look the same and maybe even personality traits that are the same. Tell your children they may be image bearers of you because of their physical features.
- Parents are physical, therefore their children physically bear the image of their parents. But children don't look exactly like their parents. God is spirit and our spiritual Father, therefore we bear the spiritual image of God. We are not exactly like God spiritually, but we resemble Him.

Middle to High School

- This week we are pondering the truth of being created in His image. In what ways are you uniquely and wonderfully made? How are you uniquely spiritually gifted?
- Often teenagers are overwhelmed with the media's attention on the outward appearance.
 - What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
 - How can you work on the beautification of the inside rather than your outward appearance?

PRAY

Lord Jesus, help us to bear your image in all that we do so that others may come to know you.