**Genesis: Back To the Beginning**

**Image Bearers**

**Genesis 1:26-28**

**Downloads**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1: Matthew 19:4-5 (TPT)**

“Haven’t you read the Scriptures about creation?” Jesus replied. “The Creator made us male and female from the very beginning, and ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and live with his wife. And the two will become one flesh.’

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**Day 2: Genesis 9:6 (NIV)**

“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.”

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**Day 3: Ephesians 4:22-24 (TPT)**

And he has taught you to let go of the lifestyle of the ancient man, the old self - life, which was corrupted by sinful and deceitful desires that spring from delusions. Now it’s time to be made new by every revelation that’s been given to you. And to be transformed as you embrace the glorious Christ-within as your new life and live in union with him! For God has re-created you all over again in his perfect righteousness, and you now belong to him in the realm of true holiness.

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**Day 4: Acts 10:34 (NLT)**

Then Peter replied, “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism.

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**Day 5: Colossians 3:9-10 (NIV)**

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it mean to you that you are made in the image of God?

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1. In Genesis 1 you see a contrast to the animals and plants who are made “according to their kinds.” Mankind is made after God’s image. Discuss the implications of the contrast.

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1. Humanity alone has a God-ward orientation: He alone can praise God. What other unique opportunities does mankind have?

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1. When God created man, He formed Him out of the ground…just like the rest of creation. (Genesis 2:19) But then God did something unique. What was it and what difference does it make? Read Genesis 2:7.

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1. If we are all made in the image of God, how does that influence the way you look at other people? Think about those you feel are different from you (rich or poor, ethnicity, political party or preferences).

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1. If we are supposed to be the church, how should the fact that we are all made in the image of God influence the way we shine for Jesus?

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**Digging Deeper:**

 **1:26-28:** The crown of God’s work was the creation of **man** **in** His **image** **and according to** His **likeness**. This means that man was placed on earth as God’s representative, and that He resembles God in certain ways. Just as God is a Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), so man is a tripartite being (spirit, soul, and body). Like God, man has intellect, a moral nature, the power to communicate with others, and an emotional nature that transcends instinct. There is no thought of physical likeness here. In contrast to animals, man is a worshiper, an articulate communicator, and a creator.

 There is an allowance for or even an intimation of the Trinity in verse 26: **Then God** [*Elohim*, plural] **said** [singular verb in Hebrew], **“Let us** [plural] **make man in our image…”**

The Bible describes the origin of the sexes as a creative act of God. Evolution has never been able to explain how the sexes began. Humanity was commanded to **be fruitful and multiply.**

 God gave man a mandate to multiply to subdue creation and have dominion over it—to use it but not abuse it. The modern crises in the earth’s environment are due to man’s greed, selfishness, and carelessness. *(Believer’s Bible Commentary)*

1. In what ways has sin corrupted man from accurately reflecting the image of God? Give current examples of how you see man misrepresenting God.

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2. When a person is re-created in Christ’s perfect righteousness (born again), in what ways do they better reflect the untarnished image of God as Adam and Eve did in the beginning before the Fall?

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