



What Makes Your Life Worth It? | Genesis 1:26-28

Sermon Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To deepen our understanding of what it means for us to see ourselves and others in light of God's blueprint for our lives, in Genesis 1:26-28.

Sermon Refresher: We all want to be significant, but we will not find that outside of God's plan. We won't find our value, worth or meaning in a particular cultural narrative, or in what others think or say about us. God's ultimate purpose for our lives is where we will find our sense of value/worth.

Icebreaker: Where or what about your life gives you the deepest sense of satisfaction/significance? When do you feel significant?

Discussion Questions:

Transition: Dave opened his sermon by stating that Genesis 1:26-28 is God's blueprint for humanity and the whole world, that it explains God's ultimate purpose for our lives, and his plan to redeem and restore that purpose, despite our sin and brokenness. He went on to say that sometimes we end up spending our lives searching for ourselves because we don't recognize the description of us in these verses.

1. Read the passage we'll primarily be discussing:

Genesis 1:26-28

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.

THE **crossing** **small groups**

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.”

2. What does it mean to be:
 - created in the image of God?
 - created male and female in the image of God?
 - to be fruitful and multiply, and to rule over creation?
3. Think about your response to the discussion question in light of these verses. How does your answer correspond with what Genesis 1 says about God’s purpose for your life?
4. How might you be seeking significance outside of His story for you?

Transition: Genesis 1:26-28 affirms that all people are made in the image of God. This is a theme we’ve heard over and over in recent sermons. So, whenever we speak in a way that **devalues people**, we are **devaluing God’s very image**.

5. Where is it hard for us to view people made in God’s image, and to honor them as such? How might our heart for others change if we sought to live this truth out? Think of specific examples.

Transition: Dave stated that holiness doesn’t involve separating ourselves from sinful people. Rather, *true holiness* is an ever-increasing presence of the fruits of the Spirit, listed in Galatians 5. Read this passage:

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

6. Which of these fruit – these character traits – do you most need to be growing in, to be growing in holiness?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

7. How can we encourage each other, as fellow believers, to work within God's story for our lives by growing in ever-increasing love? Joy? Peace? Forbearance (tolerance)? Etc?
8. No doubt many of you are aware of the challenging week brought about by last week's sermon. In what ways are you specifically feeling impacted by recent events? Are you tempted to distance yourself from the truth of God's Word? Or, are you tempted to distance yourself from those who think differently from you?

Sharing and Prayer:

Ask for any specific prayer requests. You might consider asking your small group to pray specifically for the church (not just The Crossing, but for all God's people facing trials worldwide), for his people to live out faithfulness in the face of testing. Pray that God's people would honor and glorify Him by loving those with differing views, even if they don't tolerate our views.