

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Family ...why bother?

OPENING UP



Have you ever attended an art fair or been to an art gallery? Where did you go—and what did the art you saw reveal about who the artist is?

TEXT



Designed for Dignity | Genesis 1:26-31 (ESV)

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

*27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

28 And God 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens 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. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: God designed humanity for dignity

1. God decrees human dominion. (v. 26)
2. God designs human distinction. (v. 27)
3. God directs human duty. (vv. 28-31)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- Gen 1:26–31 ESV show us how God designed us “in his image.” How might this understanding of God’s design impact how we are supposed to live?
- Humankind has been made in the “image of God”—what church leaders have summarized and studied, called *the imago Dei*. How does the fact that humanity is made in *the imago Dei* dignify people? To what degree does humanity’s sinfulness mar their place as image-bearers?
- To what degree does God’s design for humanity as his image-bearers need to impact how Christians think about current questions—like marriage, gender, sexuality, and singleness?
- In vss. 28–30, God charges his image-bearers who enact his care and goodness over creation, tending and serving the good world God created. How might this original calling impact our current response to caring for the earth and addressing ecological issues?
- Taking on humanity like ours, Jesus is the only human who truly fulfilled his calling as an *image-bearer*. How does Christ show us what dignifying others looks like, as his image-bearers?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Christians celebrate a God who made all creation *very good*—and in creation’s grand finale, he made humanity in his own image (the *imago Dei*) to reflect his goodness, will, and way within the world. This charge has not changed, and Jesus empowers us to overcome all sin that would get in the way of our ability to fulfill that charge. Where has God placed you? And what are some ways you can behave as his image-bearer right where you are, dignifying people around you in accordance with his love and light?

CLOSING PRAYER



God Almighty, thank you for making humanity your image bearers! Thank you for weaving into the very fabric of who we are your very likeness! Now, Lord, let no sin or temptation overtake my ability to behave and serve like you. Keep my heart and mind affixed upon your great calling to bear your likeness wherever I go, doing whatever you’ve placed before me to do. And aid me, Dear Lord, to reflect your eternal love to those in need around me. Amen.