

## Sermon Series: God's Story, Your Story

### Week 2 – Creation (Part 2)

Speaker: Danny de Armas

Passage: Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:18, 2:21-25

Groups Guide: 9/21/2025

#### Leader's Corner: Sermon Series Overview

*Have you ever asked yourself:*

- *Where did I come from?*
- *What is my purpose?*
- *How do I discover my God-given identity?*
- *Why is there suffering in the world?*
- *Where will I spend eternity—and what will that be like?*

*In this study, we'll journey through God's story (Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration) uncovering how His truth speaks into life's biggest questions. These aren't just questions for believers; they're questions your friends, coworkers, and neighbors are asking every day. Let's lean in together as a church family to engage our culture with the hope of the gospel and gain a fresh perspective on God's plan and our part in it.*

**Main Idea:** "The creation story points towards the idea of human purpose and human dignity for everyone".

**\*For the John Young Campus, this guide continues last Sunday's sermon from Pastor Danny as we dive deeper into Creation.**

#### **BELONG:**

*Leader's Guide: Choose one or both icebreaker questions to start your group. Question 1 works well for larger groups or groups with new members, it's lighthearted and easy to answer. Question 2 is best for smaller, more familiar groups who are ready for deeper discussion.*

##### **1.) What's one thing about yourself that you think shows God's creativity?**

*Leader's Note: Here are some examples of potential answers:*

- "Drawing or painting helps me see God's creativity shine through me."
- "I'm empathetic and love connecting with others. This reflects God's creativity in designing humans to care deeply."
- "I have a curious mind and love learning new things. I see God's creativity in my desire to explore."
- "Cooking and experimenting with recipes show me how God's creativity can be reflected in food."

##### **2.) On a scale from 0 to 10, how comfortable are you with the bible's creation narrative? Why?**

*Leader's Note: Here are some examples of potential answers from your group:*

- I'm comfortable with the bible's creation narrative, but there are still some things I don't understand
- Honestly, some parts are confusing or feel hard to reconcile with science or my own understanding
- I want to learn more and dive deeper into the creation narrative.

#### **BELIEVE:**

*Leader's Note: For better preparation during your group discussion, please take time to read the entire chapter of Genesis 1 & 2.*

**Read Genesis 1:26-31, Genesis 2:18, Genesis 2:21-25**

**1.) Last week we talked about being made in God's image. What are some ways you think we reflect God's image? And in what ways do we not?**

*Leader's Note: Since last Sunday's sermon continues into this weekend, use this question as an opportunity to recap highlights from your previous conversation. Reflect on any points you or someone in your group shared last week. This question is optional but can be especially helpful for new attendees or anyone who missed last Sunday's session.*

**2.) If our gender is a gift from God, what does that say about how we should treat ourselves and each other?**

*Leader's Note: When discussing gender and identity, we recognize that some conversations can veer off course. At the end of this guide, you'll find tips to help redirect awkward or inappropriate comments. As you engage in this discussion, you can reference Genesis 1:31 (ESV): "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." Out of everything God created, only mankind (male and female) bears His image. Creation is God-centric. So, the focus of creation is not us, but God.*

**3.) Out of everything God created, what is one thing that bears His image? How does recognizing this in others teach us to value and respect them?**

**BECOME:**

**Cross Reference Verses: Colossians 3:17, Isaiah 40:21-28**

**1.) How are you forming and filling the earth as an image bearer of God, in light of your unique purpose and design?**

*Leader's Note: To encourage more engagement with this question, have your group members reflect on their own unique purpose and design (think back to Icebreaker Question #1). Encourage them to consider who they interact with, where they work, and what they do daily (including their family and close friends). How are they representing God as His image bearer in those areas? Consider their family and close friends as well.*

**2.) Read Isaiah 40:21-28. As we've been talking about creation, who is the main character? While mankind is the crowning achievement, God is the center of the story! How does this perspective change the way you think about God and His creation?**

**CHALLENGE:**

*We are disciples of Jesus becoming **GROWING FOLLOWERS**. This means we are on a life-long journey to be more like Jesus in love, in character, and in mission.*

Since we're made in God's image and called to reflect Him, choose one intentional way this week to *form and fill* your space with God's presence. That could look like:

- Speaking words of encouragement to someone who needs to be reminded of their value.
- Using your creativity, skill, or curiosity to bless your workplace, family, or friends.
- Pausing to notice God's creation around you and thanking Him as the center of the story.

**DIVE DEEPER:**

*This section is designed for leaders or anyone eager to go deeper beyond the small group conversation. Explore the resources below to keep growing!*

Bible Project:

- Genesis 1 - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/genesis-1/>

- The Book of Genesis Study Guide - <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-genesis/>
- Image of God - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/image-of-god/>

Breakpoint Colson Center

- <https://breakpoint.org/breakpoint-podcasts/>
  - <https://breakpoint.org/the-story-of-creation-gives-us-purpose/>
  - <https://breakpoint.org/is-genesis-just-one-of-the-many-creation-myths/>

Blue Letter Bible

- [www.Blueletterbible.org/commentaries](http://www.Blueletterbible.org/commentaries)

## Group Leader Resource

*How to navigate conversations during your small group*

**As a group leader**, your role is to create meaningful conversation and encourage participation from everyone.

### Tip #1

**Give everyone the opportunity to speak.**

- 1.) Set expectations early with people who will tend to talk a lot.

### Helpful phrases you can use:

“I want to make sure everyone has a chance to share. Let’s keep answers shorter and concise if possible”.

**If someone isn’t aware they’re talking excessively, gently say:**

- “Thank you so much for sharing. Let’s hear from someone else now.”

**If someone speaks out of turn or says something inappropriate, redirect by saying:**

- “Thanks for sharing. Let’s talk more about that offline.”

**Don’t “should” on people.**

- It’s common for someone to share, and for others (with good intentions) to respond with, “Well, you should just...” or “Here’s what you should do”
- Try to refrain from this and encourage your group members not to as well. The goal is for people to feel heard, not fixed.

**How do leaders handle conflict or tension in their group without shutting things down?**

1. **Stay calm and curious.** Don’t react defensively, ask clarifying questions.
2. **Acknowledge the emotion.** Say things like, “I hear you,” or “Thanks for sharing that.” It honors the person without endorsing everything said.
3. **Redirect when needed.** If things get heated, guide back to the main point: “That’s important—let’s tie it back to the passage.”
4. **Protect the group.** If something personal or inappropriate comes up, step in gently and offer to talk more after group.
  - a. Our Groups Team often says, **“You can’t let one person compromise the integrity of an entire group”.**

### When to Involve Support:

Remember: your role isn’t to have all the answers in the moment, but to keep the group space safe, loving, and focused on Jesus. Sometimes the best discipleship moments come through tension, not around it. If conflict persists, don’t carry it alone (process it with a co-leader or group staff for support.).