

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

### **Week 1 - Creation**

**Speaker: Danny de Armas**

**Passage: Genesis 1:26-31**

**Groups Guide: 9/14/2025**

### **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:** *"We can flourish when we know and understand the realities of God's design in 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.) When you think about being made in God's image, what's one word that comes to mind?**

*Leader's Note: Here are good examples of words people may use. You can read them off as suggestions.*

- *Whole*
- *Valued*
- *Worthy*
- *Loved*
- *Known*

#### **2.) What's one question you've always had, or you have about the creation story?**

*Leader's Note: Here are good examples of questions people can ask. You may also read them off as suggestions.*

- Why did God rest on the seventh day?
- What does it mean that we're made in God's image?
- Why did God create both male and female?
- What was the Garden of Eden like?
- How did Adam and Eve's choice affect the world?

### **BELIEVE:**

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

### **Read Genesis 1:26-31**

#### **1.) In Genesis 1:26, God says, 'Let us make man in our image.' Why do you think He uses the plural form here?**

*Leader's Note: "The occurrence of "us" in this passage has been understood to refer to the plurality of the godhead: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This understanding would have been unknown to the authors of the Old Testament. Another possible explanation is the so-called "plural of majesty," but this type of grammatical usage is more common for nouns and adjectives than verbs. A simpler explanation is that "us" reflects an announcement by the single God of Israel to a group in His presence—the heavenly host. Other Old Testament passages support the idea of a heavenly host or divine council (Psa 29:1; see Psa 82:1 and note). This explanation also applies to Gen 11:7. The phrase "our image" then means that the members of the heavenly host also reflect the divine image." - John D. Barry et al., [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 1:26.*

#### **2.) In what ways are we made in God's image? In what ways are we not made in God's image.**

#### **3.) How does knowing God made both male and female in His image shape the way you see yourself? and, the way you see others?**

*Leader's Note: Here is a suggested statement as you navigate conversations about identity regarding male and female. Being made in God's image means our core identity is not in desires or mistakes, but in Him. God created male and female to reflect His image (Genesis 1:27) and designed marriage between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6). Scripture is clear that same-sex sexual activity is outside His design (Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11). Still, Paul reminds us we are all broken in different ways, but through Christ we can be washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Corinthians 6:11).*

## BECOME:

### 1.) If we really believed every person is made in God's image, how might that change the way we treat each other?

*Leader Note: Invite someone in your group (or yourself) read Matthew 28:19-20 aloud. Spend some time reflecting and making your own notes of both Genesis 1 and Matthew 28 to help facilitate a meaningful group conversation. Below are a few examples you can use during your discussion.*

### 2.) How do both Genesis 1 and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) reveal God's heart for the whole world?

### 3.) What similarities do you see between God's instructions to Adam and Eve and Jesus' instructions to His disciples?

## 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.*

As part of this series, we are telling *our* story and *God's* story. Your challenge for this week is to reflect on your origin story through these questions:

- Where did you come from?
- How have you seen God woven into your story?
- What has God been showing you lately, and how have you responded?
- In what ways are you growing as a follower of Jesus? Where do you still need His help?
- How would you tell the creation story in your own words?

Take time this week to slow down, reflect, and remember that God is still writing your 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)