

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## A BEAUTIFUL DESIGN: THE BLUEPRINT FOR FLOURISHING

### Genesis 1:26-28

#### DISCUSSION 1: INTRODUCTION

1. What are some of the questions you have coming in to this series? Think in terms of being male or female, single or married, husband or wife, etc.
2. What are things in the culture or in the church that make understanding or living out biblical manhood and womanhood challenging?
3. What are some of the opportunities we have as Christians if we better understand and live out biblical manhood and womanhood?

#### DISCUSSION 2: IMAGE-BEARERS

1. What categories on Sunday were used to explain the image of God? What did you find helpful about them?
2. If you had to explain to a co-worker or friend in one-minute what it means that we're created in God's image, what would you say?
3. How should mankind being in God's image affect our understanding of human nature or what a person is? How might it affect our understanding of our purpose as humans or what we do?
4. What are one or two ways this week you can better reflect and represent God to those around you?

#### DISCUSSION 3: APPLICATION

1. How does understanding our role as image-bearers provide greater purpose and meaning in your day, work, roles, and relationships?
2. God creates both male and female in His image. There are a lot of implications to this, but how might this suggest that men need women and women need men, including but not limited to marriage? How might this work itself out in healthy friendships within the Church?
3. If all people are equal in value, dignity, and worth, and all people are made in God's likeness, how should this cause to treat people? How might it help us respond different when frustrated, hurt, inconvenienced, called to serve others, or in disagreements with other people?
4. Apply the truth that all humans being are made in God's image to the following issues (pick a couple or briefly talk through each of these): abortion, racism or prejudice in any form, sexual abuse, pornography, parenting, vocation, caring for the poor, self-image, and stewardship of creation.
5. What does God's good dominion or care look like? What are ways we can reflect God's purposes and character in our own exercise dominion? What are we ways we might not reflect God when we misunderstand, abuse, or avoid this kind of dominion?

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that we are created in God's image?
2. If we are made in God's image, how might our words, actions, and thoughts reflect and represent God?
3. If others are made in God's image, how should we talk to or treat people?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Parallel Passages:** Gen. 1:26-32; 2:8-9, 15-17; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:1-4, 10; 1 Cor. 15:49; Eph. 4:20-24.
- **Jesus as the Image of God:** John 1:14, 18; 14:9; Col. 1:20; 2 Cor. 4:4, 6; Heb. 1:3.
- See [Resources on Manhood & Womanhood](https://fishers.yourchurch.com/sermons) at [fishers.yourchurch.com/sermons](https://fishers.yourchurch.com/sermons)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SPOUSES

1. What are ways we live out God's image that faithfully reflect and represent God? What might be ways we relate to one another, live out our roles, or general things we do in our marriage that might not reflect God?
2. Share with your spouse how you think they reflect God well in their life.
3. Are there ways we treat one another, talk to one another, or behaviors in our marriage that might not fully uphold the equal value, dignity, and worth of one another?
4. How might seeing one another as God's image-bearers change how we relate to one another?
5. How might seeing myself as an image-bearer (someone called to relate to, reflect, and represent God to others) help me be a better spouse?
6. How should understanding image-bearing affect our parenting? If our kids mimic us—which they will do—will they be a good reflection to the world of who God is? How do we nurture them imaging God in their own ways rather than wanting them to always do it like we do?