

The Imago Dei – Genesis 1:26-27

Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- Describe a time when you have seen an animal act very human or show human emotion or personality.

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-3.
 - If God is spirit, how can people be made in the image of God?
 - What does the “image of God” have to do with the instruction to rule the earth in Genesis 1:26?
 - What are the fundamental differences between the nature of people (in the image of God) and nature of animals?
 - In Genesis 5:3 we learn that Adam’s son was in his image. How does that inform our understanding of what it means to be created in the image of God?
- Read Ecclesiastes 3:11 and Psalm 139:14.
 - What does it mean that we have been created with eternity in our hearts?
 - What did the Psalmist mean when he said we have been remarkably and wondrously made?
 - When we see how the Lord has made us and that we are made in the image of God, what should that motivate us to do?
- Read Matthew 19:13-15, James 1:27, and Psalm 127:3.
 - If all people have value because they were created in the image of God, then how should that change our attitude toward the poor and helpless here and around the world?
 - How does the fact that we are all created in the image of God speak to the subject of racism?
- Read Psalm 139:13 and Matthew 25:40.
 - What does the fact that we are all created in the image of God speak to the subject of abortion?
 - Why is it wrong to discard “unwanted” children?

Respond

- What are the ways our world measures someone’s worth and value? According to Scripture, what makes us valuable to the Lord? How should this affect how we treat people different than us?
- How would you counsel someone who is considering an abortion because their child is unwanted or is expected to be born with some physical or mental limitations?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Is our being made in the image of God more about the authority mankind has been given, the moral code written on our hearts, our intellectual superiority, our awareness of God, or our consciousness? What is the biblical support for your view?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (11/25)	Genesis 5:1-3, Psalm 139
Tuesday (11/26)	John 20:11-31
Wednesday (11/27)	John 21:1-25
Thursday (11/28)	1 Corinthians 1:1-31
Friday (11/29)	1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (11/25) — Genesis 5:1-3, Psalm 139

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (11/26) — John 20:11-31

- Mary experienced a dramatic change of emotions. She went from being grief stricken over Jesus’ death to being elated at his resurrection. Spend a minute or two thinking about what that transition must have been like. What words do you think Mary would have used to describe the sudden change? Thank the Lord for the amazing miracle of resurrection that gives us such hope.
- In 20:21 Jesus said he was sending the disciples (and us) just like he was sent. What do you think that means? How has he “sent” you? How will that show up in your life this day and this week?
- According to 20:31, what are the two reasons the book of John was written down and preserved for us? Spend some time thanking the Lord for the book. Talk to him about its impact on your life these last few weeks.

Wednesday (11/27) — John 21:1-25

- Describe the emotions of Peter when he realized the man on the shore was Jesus (21:7). Being a Christian is not primarily about emotions, but we should be passionate about the Lord. Is there anything keeping you from being more emotional or passionate about worshiping the Lord?
- Why do you think Jesus asked Peter if he loved him three times? Could this have had something to do with the fact that Peter denied Jesus three times? Was the repeat of this question for Jesus’ benefit or Peter’s? Do you need to re-express your love for him this morning?
- In 21:21, Peter is concerned about how the path the Lord has for him compared to the path the Lord has for John. Jesus tells Peter not to do this in 21:22. Why is it wrong to compare what the Lord has for us to be and do and what the Lord has for others to be and do?

Thursday (11/28) — 1 Corinthians 1:1-31

- In 1:4, Paul says that he constantly gave thanks to the Lord for those he knew in the Corinthian church and for what the Lord was doing in their lives. This is a good pattern for us all. Write the names of three fellow believers and something the Lord is doing in their lives. Thank the Lord for them.
- According to 1:7-8, who will sustain us to the end? What does that mean? What will be declared true of us in “the day of our Lord Jesus Christ?” Write the answer down in the form of an expression of thanksgiving.
- 1:10-17 is about the importance of unity among believers. At the beginning of 1:10, what word does Paul use to refer to the believers in Corinth? (It starts with “b.”) Why did Paul use this word? What was he emphasizing? What does this word teach us about our relationships with fellow believers? Write a list of three lessons this word teaches us.

Friday (11/29) — 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

- In 2:1, Paul says he did not preach with fancy speech or wisdom. In 2:3, Paul says he didn’t preach with arrogant self-confidence. In 2:4, Paul says he didn’t speak with persuasive words (pull on the heart strings of people). So what was the secret of his success? (Answers in 2:2, 4.) What was the goal of his ministry? (Answer in 2:5.)
- Rewrite the promise of 2:9 in your own words. Then thank the Lord for his goodness.
- We learn in 2:10 that the Holy Spirit knows the depths of God. We see in 2:11 that he knows the thoughts of God. According to 2:12-13, what are two ways we benefit from the Holy Spirit’s knowledge?