



CORE STUDY # I

God Created Us in His Image

Passage: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Themes: God as Creator; Made in the Image of God; Blessed and called to cultivate the earth.

Summary:

The book of Genesis begins with the story of creation. God speaks into being the heavens, the earth, and the creatures of the world, concluding with the crown of His creation, man and woman. Humans are different from the rest of creation because they are created in God's image. God then blesses them and invites them to rule over the earth and enjoy what God has created.

Introduction Question:

- Throughout your life, what is the best gift that you have ever received (i.e. a new car, a piece of jewelry, a word of advice)? What made the gift so special and how did you respond to that gift?

Discussion Questions (selection to choose from):

1. What does the first verse of the Bible assume or tell us?
2. What does the progression of creation tell us about God?
3. What verses hint towards the presence of the Trinity?
4. What does it mean to be made in the image of God? In what ways are we unique from the rest of creation?
5. What is the nature of human "dominion"?
6. What is the significance of being "blessed"?
7. Do you think humans were made to simply exist or to be God's representatives on earth? Why? What does that look like for each of us?
8. What is the purpose of Genesis 1? Is it concerned with *how* God made the world or rather *why* God chose to create?

Response:

- God chose to create you in His image and desires for you to enjoy His creation. Knowing this, how should this effect the way you think about yourself/identity, your peers, strangers, and the environment?