



Welcome + Opening Prayer

THEMATIC OVERVIEW

What does it mean to be made in God's image?

*"There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal... it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit— immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."
- C.S. Lewis,*

"Capacity" is here used to mean a person's ability or contribution to society. How do we value people who are low capacity or at least low capacity in a certain area?

*"The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken."
-C.S. Lewis*

PRAYER GUIDELINES

In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.

GROUP SCHEDULE - FALL

Next Meeting: week of Oct 7

week of Oct 21

Genesis 1:26-2:3

See passage printed on the back of this page.

Explore + Apply

1. How do you typically assure yourself that you matter; that you're OK; that you are valuable? It could be a relationship, a professional or personal accomplishment, a membership in a certain group. How do you end up denying or editing parts of who you are to be that sort of person that matters? In your close relationships— do you try to edit the personality of other people in your life so that they will matter on your terms? What changes if mattering to God is the only mattering we need?
2. How do you think you value other people based on their "capacity" instead of their God-given dignity as image bearers? How would seeing *everyone* as made in God's image change the way you interact with the people you disagree with? Or the people who are acceptable to trample in our culture? Or the people who are most difficult for us to love? How do we unintentionally or intentionally cooperate with our culture's sense of earned dignity instead of God-given dignity?
3. Colossians 1:15 points to Jesus as the perfect image of God's glory. How does He empower the restoration of God's image in us? How might we reflect and represent the image of God's character in the world if we came to appreciate that Jesus allowed Himself to be trampled— in order to end all trampling of God's image in anyone?

Pray

- ▶ Spend some time considering the value, the "weight of glory," God has given you.
- ▶ Pray and listen: What changes if mattering to God is the only mattering I need?
- ▶ Pray that God would give us an imagination for how to reflect His glory in faithful presence and meaningful grace: here in our neighborhoods, families, friendships, workplaces, and places of play.

Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.

Genesis 1:26-2:3

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ 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.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.