



“Made in the Image of God” - June 14, 2026

Sermon by Dr. Patrica Batten

Group Leader Notes

What does it mean to be made in the image of God? In this opening message of our Summer Reading series, guest preacher Dr. Patricia Batten teaches from Genesis 1:26–28 and explores one of the most foundational truths in Scripture: every human being is created as the image of God. Through Scripture, personal story, and reflection, Pat reminds us that our worth is not based on our work, achievements, relationships, abilities, or circumstances. Our value comes from who we are: God’s image-bearers, created by Him, known by Him, and deeply valuable to Him. Whether life has gone according to plan or taken an unexpected turn, knowing who we are helps us wherever we are.

Main Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:26-28

Group Discussion: Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. **Pat Batten said, “Knowing who you are helps you wherever you are.”** How does understanding yourself as an image-bearer of God change the way you view difficult or unexpected seasons of life?
2. **The sermon challenged the idea that our identity comes from our work, achievements, relationships, or abilities.** What are some things you are tempted to build your identity around, and what happens when those things are threatened or taken away?
3. **Pat shared the story of “Welcome to Holland” to describe life not turning out as expected.** Have you experienced a “Holland” season? How did that experience shape your understanding of God, yourself, or your purpose?
4. **The sermon emphasized that every person bears the image of God, regardless of their abilities, status, age, race, or circumstances.** How might truly believing this change the way we treat people we disagree with, overlook, or find difficult to love?
5. **Jesus is described as the perfect image of God, and through Him we are being transformed into His likeness.** What is one area of your life where you sense God inviting you to reflect Jesus more clearly?

https://youtu.be/lAfUpoYN2yg?si=2Yvp5x_UFk1o0OSM



This summer, in our Summer Reading sermon series, we're exploring the grand story of Scripture through the four major acts of the Bible: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation.

We'll see how God has been at work throughout all ages—and how God is at work right now. Along the way, we'll gain more biblical understanding and meaningful, life-shaping applications.

Our hope is that, together, we will:

- Discover joy in reading God's Word
- See the powerful, unified arc of Scripture
- Understand God's redemptive work for all people and all things in Jesus
- Embrace the invitation to join Him in that work today

Click the link below for more.

<https://www.grace.org/summerreading/>

