

# Sermon Discussion Guide



**Speaker:** Cory Hintz

**Series:** Origin Story

**Title:** A Few Were Good

**Primary Texts:** Genesis 5:1-24; Hebrews 11:5-6; Colossians 1:15; John 15:1-8

**Big Idea:** *Our story has more of God's goodness when it reflects His likeness.*

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## Sermon Outline

### I. A Family That Began Calling on the Lord (Genesis 4:26; 5:1–24)

- Genesis 5 follows the line of Seth, contrasting the violence and self-exaltation of Cain's descendants with a family increasingly oriented toward God.
- While Genesis 5 is often read simply as a genealogy, it tells the story of God's faithfulness through generations.
- The repeated refrain, "and he died," reminds us that the curse of Genesis 3 is still active. Yet another refrain quietly emerges: people who increasingly reflect God's character.
- The chapter points beyond biological ancestry to a spiritual legacy.

**Key Principle:** God's redemptive story often advances through ordinary people who faithfully walk with Him.

### II. God's Likeness Is Our Identity (Genesis 5:1–2)

#### 1. Humanity Bears God's Image

- Genesis echoes Genesis 1 by reminding us that every human being is created in God's likeness.
- We are not God, but we were created to represent Him in the world.
- Bearing God's image means reflecting His communicable attributes—love, wisdom, justice, creativity, relationship, stewardship, and worship.

## 2. Identity Precedes Activity

- Our worth comes from being created by God, not from what we accomplish.
- Dominion is not domination but faithful stewardship under God's authority.
- We best reflect God when we live wisely, generously, faithfully, and lovingly.

**Key Principle:** Before we do anything for God, we belong to Him as His image bearers.

## III. God's Likeness Is Shared Across Generations (Genesis 5:3–21)

### 1. Faith Is Meant to Be Passed Down

- Seth's family became known as those who "called on the name of the Lord."
- Enoch did not appear in isolation; his faith grew out of generations that intentionally sought God.
- Like the Ten Boom family, spiritual influence often develops quietly through consistent faithfulness.

### 2. Every Generation Shapes the Next

- Parents, grandparents, mentors, and church families all help form future disciples.
- Ordinary rhythms—prayer, worship, repentance, Scripture, and faithful living—leave lasting spiritual fingerprints.

**Key Principle:** The greatest inheritance we leave is not wealth or success, but a life that consistently points others toward Jesus.

## IV. God's Likeness Is Embodied Through Walking with Him (Genesis 5:21–24)

### 1. Enoch Walked with God

- Enoch stands out because of one repeated description: he "walked faithfully with God."
- Hebrews 11 explains that Enoch pleased God through faith, not perfection.
- His life was shaped by daily fellowship rather than isolated religious moments.

### 2. Walking Produces Transformation

- Faith shapes priorities, desires, decisions, and character.
- Authentic discipleship grows from relationship, not performance.
- The goal is not merely knowing about God but living with Him.

**Key Principle:** Godly character is the overflow of consistent communion with God.

## V. Jesus Perfectly Reveals and Restores God's Image

### 1. Jesus Is the True Image of God

- Unlike every other image bearer, Jesus is the exact image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3).
- He perfectly reveals the Father and restores what sin distorted.

### 2. Jesus Creates a New Family

- Through His death and resurrection, Jesus reconciles sinners to God.
- Believers receive a new identity before they receive new assignments.
- The Church becomes a family united not by bloodlines but by grace.

### 3. Jesus Calls Us to Abide

- Like Enoch walked with God, Jesus calls His followers to remain in Him (John 15).
- Spiritual fruit grows naturally from abiding in Christ.
- As we remain in Him, His likeness becomes increasingly visible in our lives.

**Key Principle:** The more we walk with Jesus, the more we become like Jesus.

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## Discussion Questions:

### HEAD Questions

*(Understanding the Text)*

1. Why does Genesis 5 begin by reminding readers that humanity is created in God's likeness?
2. What contrasts do you notice between Cain's family line (Genesis 4) and Seth's family line (Genesis 5)?
3. Why is Enoch highlighted among the many names in the genealogy?
4. According to Hebrews 11, what pleased God about Enoch's life?
5. How does Jesus fulfill what Genesis says about bearing God's image?
6. What does John 15 teach about the relationship between abiding in Christ and producing spiritual fruit?

## HEART Questions

*(Personal Reflection)*

1. In what ways do you find your identity rooted in accomplishments rather than being made in God's image?
2. Who has most influenced your walk with Christ, and how did they shape your faith?
3. If someone described your life in one sentence, what evidence would they see that you "walk with God"?
4. Which aspect of abiding in Christ feels most challenging to you right now?
5. What kind of spiritual legacy are you currently building for the next generation?
6. Where do you most need to remember that your identity is received through Christ rather than earned?

## HANDS Questions

*(Faithful Response)*

1. What is one intentional way you can spend more time abiding with Jesus this week?
2. How can you model faith more visibly within your home, workplace, or friendships?
3. Identify one younger believer—or one person exploring faith—you can intentionally encourage or disciple.
4. What daily habit could help you consistently reflect Christ's character?
5. How can our group become a community that faithfully passes the gospel to the next generation?
6. This week, where can you intentionally "freely give" what you have freely received from Christ?

## Closing Reflection

Genesis 5 may appear to be only a genealogy, but it tells a much larger story. In the midst of humanity's mortality and the repeated reminder that "he died," God preserves a people who call upon His name and reflect His character. Enoch serves as a signpost, pointing beyond himself to Jesus Christ, the perfect image of God who restores God's likeness in His people. As we abide in Christ, we become the kind of people who naturally pass our faith to others. Our story increasingly reflects God's goodness as it increasingly reflects His likeness.