

MAIN POINT

As image bearers of God who have been marred by the Fall, human beings are inherently both noble and depraved.

INTRODUCTION

Discuss some light examples of questions that seem hard to answer, like: Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds? How do, "Do not walk on the grass" signs get there? What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men? How does a Yeti cup know if a drink should be hot or cold? Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes? Invite members to share a few examples of their own.

What are some questions people have about God that are difficult to understand or answer?

Are you more likely to avoid difficult spiritual questions, or search for answers? Explain.

UNDERSTANDING

> READ GENESIS 1:27-28; 2:7,18-23 (ESV).

In what ways were humans set apart from the rest of God's creation?

What does it mean to be made in God's image or likeness? Based on these verses, what about God do you think humans are meant to represent?

What do the concepts of subduing the earth and ruling over its creatures mean? What are the limits to our ruling and subduing?

In what ways do all human beings reflect the image of God? In what ways do all human beings fail to reflect the image of God?

How do these verses reflect the unique relationship between God and man?

How should knowing that we are made in God's image affect your relationship with God and other people?

> READ GENESIS 3:1-7.

What does verse 7 reveal about what sin brought into human experience?

This side of the Fall, are we still image bearers of God, or did sin destroy that part of who we are? Explain.

APPLICATION

How might our lives look different if we lived in a constant realization that we are made in the image of God?

How does the truth that God is bigger and more powerful than your sin encourage you when you consider your own failings as an image bearer of God?

How should the image of God in creation and the Fall impact your conversations with unbelievers?

PRAY

Thank God that He created you in His image and that His purpose in you is intact, despite Satan's attempts to destroy it. Thank Him that He has sustained and even increased your ability to reflect His character by the work of Christ on the cross and the power of the Holy Spirit within you. Ask God to help you reflect Him well and to help others see that they are valuable image bearers of their Creator.

MEMORIZE

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. —Genesis 1:27 (ESV)