



## Connect Discussion Guide

2.14.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Genesis 2:25; 2:7; 1:26-31

*We understand life's work through the lens of our identity: designed by God and redeemed in Christ.*

### Key Scriptures:

*And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

- Genesis 2:25

*...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

- Genesis 2:7

*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."*

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

*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." 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. 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. 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.*

- Genesis 1:26–31

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

- Revelation 7:9–10

*Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...*

- Luke 24:45

### Message Highlights:

- Adam and Eve were naked, which meant they were vulnerable and impoverished. Yet, they had no shame.

- In Genesis 1, an “image” is a physical representation that points to some other person or deity. God created us to live in relationship with him and to represent him to all creation.
- We have been given a communal mission, and God provides all that we need to live it out.
- “Our radical individualism is a denial of our identity. God created us to be in community and for community.” - Mark Moore
- When we place our hope in Christ and pledge our allegiance to him, we receive a redeemed identity and can once again live free from shame.
- We understand our life’s work through the lens of our identity. We are designed by God and redeemed in Christ.

### **Conversation Starter:**

- In what ways, thus far, have you learned how this book of beginnings, Genesis, helps us to reorient our modern day life?

### **Discuss the Message:**

1. We live in a highly individualistic culture, yet the creation narrative in Genesis shows us we were created for community. Name some instances where you have slipped into this individualistic mindset, and reflect on how that may be pulling you away from God. Then, talk about a couple of specific ways you can pull these areas of your life back into the light of community.
2. Consider our utter dependence on God in light of both the creation narrative and Luke 24:45. What actions or emotions does this dependence on our Creator stir in you?
3. God’s life-giving authority is on full display in Genesis 2:7, “...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” How does this narrative enhance your understanding of God’s life-giving gift of grace?
4. Worship is what fuels the mission in Eden; what propels you through your days? Take an audit of your daily missions and purpose, and talk about all the ways you can trade distractions for life-giving worship.
5. Faithfully fulfilling God’s command of “Be fruitful and multiply” can be modeled in a multitude of ways, and oftentimes out of view of the public eye. Share with your group some discipleship “wins” you’ve witnessed or have been a part of within your circles.

### **Pray:**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of life which you have given to us. Thank you for redeeming us through your Son, Jesus. Help us to understand our life’s work through our new identity in Christ. We want our worship to fuel our mission in this world. We thank you that you have designed us for the every day work to which you have called us. May we be bearers of your image in a way that reflects your presence, your goodness and your love to those around us. Show us the ways you want to move through the work that we do. Father, we know that you are moving through our work even when it feels mundane or insignificant. Help us by your Spirit to see our purpose in this world. Thank you for the community of believers that you have given to us. Help us to remember that we are not alone, and that we must carry out our life’s work for you in community. Amen.*