

“In the Image of the Invisible”

The Beginning of Everything, Small Group #2

Genesis 1: 26 – 27, 2: 4 – 7

Hook-

1. In the 8th and 9th Centuries. Christianity had a major controversy called the iconoclast Controversy. The issue had to do with the introduction of three-dimensional images of God and the divine into church art and teaching. Why do you think many opposed three-dimensional images of God? Do you agree?

--Icons were two-dimensional images for teaching, 3/d was statues, etc.

2. Have you ever tried to generate an image or concept that represents the image of God? Was it hard? Why?
3. Would it be fair to ever argue that only God can make an accurate image of God? What would you argue is the closest image God has created that best represents himself?

Book-

1. In Genesis God says we are made in his image:

Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Gen. 1: 26-27)

2. What does it mean to be made in the “image of God”? What does it NOT mean?
3. Colossians 1: 15-20 speaks of Jesus as the “image of God”. In what ways was Jesus an Image bearer of God like us? In what ways was he different?

4. How does Jesus message about taxes and Caesar help to convey that we are created to be image bearers of God? (see Matt. 22: 21)

Look-

1. *What makes us "image bearers"? What does it mean that every one of us is created in God's image?*
2. *Are babies created in image of God? Old people? Asian people? African people? White people? Educated people? Uneducated? What did we do to become an image bearer?*
3. *How might we treat people differently if we saw as "image bearers" of God?*
4. *In Jesus God switches the identification... In Genesis 1:26-27 God says, "Let us make man in our image." In John 1: 14 God says, "Let me make God in their image."*

→ *Why is the incarnation critical to understanding the image of God?*

5. *In what ways can we tarnish the "image of God" upon us?*

Took-

1. *Contemplate this quote from C.S. Lewis, "There are no ordinary people. You have never met a mere mortal." Determine to live this week as if there are no ordinary people—that everyone is an image bearer of God.*
2. *Contemplate in what ways your divine image is longing for a world beyond this one. As C.S. Lewis said, "If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world."*
3. *Stand for those who are sometimes held as of lesser value; especially women, elderly and minorities.*
4. *Stress to your children that they are made in the image of God, and that they carry the divine image that should not be tarnished.*

Closing prayer:

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." (Augustine, 398 AD)