

Series: The Drama of God Act 1  
Sermon: created in the Image of God  
Speaker: Jerry Gillis

### **Daily Readings**

Monday: Genesis 1:26-31 (The creation of humans in God's image)  
Psalm 8 (Human dignity and purpose in God's creation)

Tuesday: Genesis 2:4-17 (The garden narrative and human purpose)  
Colossians 1:15-20 (Christ as the perfect image of God)

Wednesday: Genesis 2:18-25 (Creation of woman, human relationships)  
Ephesians 4:17-24 (Renewal of God's image in believers)

Thursday: Psalm 139:13-18 (God's intentional creation of each person)  
James 3:7-12 (Treatment of fellow image-bearers)

Friday: Romans 8:28-30 (Being conformed to Christ's image)  
2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (Transformation into God's image)

Saturday: 1 Peter 2:9-12 (Our purpose as God's representatives)  
Isaiah 43:1-7 (Created for God's glory)

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Have someone in your group give a brief recap of Sunday's message, highlighting the primary Scripture points and the main idea of the message.
2. How did this message strengthen and/or correct your previous ideas about being created in the image of God? Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? Did you learn anything new about God or yourself this week?
3. Pastor Jerry mentions how we often build our identity on "stories we've been told about ourselves." What are some common identity stories people embrace, and how do these compare to the biblical story of being made in God's image?
4. The message distinguishes between Genesis 1's "cosmic" view and Genesis 2's "specific" view of creation. How do these two perspectives work together to deepen our understanding of human purpose and dignity?
5. We heard; "Your story only makes sense in God's story." How does viewing yourself primarily as an image-bearer of God change how you might approach your daily roles and relationships?
6. C.S. Lewis is quoted saying "There are no ordinary people." How should this perspective of human dignity affect how we treat others, even those we disagree with or find difficult?
7. The Bible describes humans as having both "representation" and "relationship" purposes. How do these two aspects of our purpose intersect and influence each other?

8. What action step do you need to take in response to this week's message? How can your group hold you accountable to this step?

Action Step:

1. Think about your primary roles (parent, professional, student, etc.). How can you specifically demonstrate being God's image-bearer in one of these roles this week? What would change about how you approach that role?
2. Given that all humans are made in God's image, identify one relationship where you've struggled to show dignity to the other person. What specific steps can you take to better recognize and honor God's image in them?