

The Story of God — Week 2

November 1, 2015

Learn

Genesis 1:26-28 (ESV)

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."

Main Idea

Last week, we learned more about the author of the story, God Himself. This week, we begin looking at the story He wrote; a story of where we came from, what went wrong, and how God entered into the story.

As we look at the story of creation, we can't help but notice what God continues to call His creation: good. We see that God loves what He created, enough to come down here Himself to redeem it. This leaves us with the command to follow Him in enjoying creation and seeking to redeem it. While we rejoice in the beauty of creation and successes in pursuing redemption, we must never forget, however, that creation is finite, and its goodness is just a glimpse of the majesty of eternity.

Think...

1. Zach talks about how revolutionary it is for the Bible to call creation good; how different it is from other religions. Think about how it affects your life that God created a place that He specifically wants you to know is good.

2. In Mark 2:1-12, we hear the story of the paralytic man being healed. Jesus' first response to the man's faith is to forgive his sin, showing us that our greatest

need is God. Have you ever thought of our ability to gain forgiveness from sin through Jesus as a measure of our worth to God?

3. Because this world is real and because God is committed to it (John 3:16), we must take seriously God's command to repair it. Do you believe that what you do in this world matters? If so, does that change the way you live?

Discuss...

1. Zach says that we are designed to find our worth in the infinite, yet we continually try to find it in the finite. Can you relate to this? How?

2. Though we see that we are encouraged to enjoy God's creation and seek to redeem it, we know that our efforts sometimes seem to fail. Jesus gives us the ability to do without the good when it seems fleeting because of the eternity He offers us. Do you ever feel like you can't find the good in this world? How can the infinite help you deal with the uncertainty of the finite?

3. What need has God most fashioned your heart to meet? What causes your eyes to light up? How can you seek to find, or better understand the passion God has set in you?

Next Steps

God created this world to be good. We will see later in Genesis what went wrong, but it's no secret that something did. Because God finds this world and the people in it worthy, we are called to fight against injustice, brokenness, and boredom. God created our hearts to find joy in repairing what went wrong.

We invite you to join us this Saturday, November 7th, as we spend the day doing repair work in our city through niceSERVE. You can join a niceSERVE project at niceserve.org.

You are also invited to take a step towards learning about how we participate in fighting injustice in Africa by attending our Join Africa class which starts this Sunday, November 8th at 6pm. You can find more information and sign up for the class by emailing Nathan Boyett at nboyett@summitconnect.org.