

**LEADERTREKS** **SERMON SERIES****MARK OF A DISCIPLE**

Disciples of Christ see God as the good Creator of the world.

**SCRIPTURE**

GENESIS 1:1–2:3

**SERMON OVERVIEW**

Today we are starting the first lesson in our Salvaged series. The Gospel starts at creation, and followers of Jesus recognize that God is not only the Creator of our world and everything in it, but they all see God as good. Everything God made was good, including the humans he created in his own image.

**OPENING****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**GAME AND ICE BREAKER QUESTION**

- We recommend **Make the Shape** or choose a screen game from **Deep Discipleship Games**.
- What is something you have made that you are most proud of? (Recipe, school project, DIY, etc.)

**MESSAGE**

*Use the following teaching points and suggested illustrations as a starting point to build your message.*

**READ GENESIS 1:1-2****POINT 1: God was before the beginning**

It's difficult to think about eternity future—something that has no end. But trying to wrap your mind around eternity past—something with no beginning—is mindboggling. This is the truth about God. He has always existed (Isa. 40:28). Before a single element of existence formed, God was there to create it (Ps. 90:2). He has no beginning because he is the beginning (Rev. 22:13). One of the indisputable proofs that God is the one true God is that he is the source of all things.

**ILLUSTRATION:** If you have the capability through your phone or tablet, draw a quick picture of whatever you want on the screen. If that's not an option, draw a picture beforehand and show it to the group. Talk about having complete authority to draw whatever you want and being the creator of everything on the page.

Nothing in your drawing existed before you did. You decided the order of your drawing and determined what your creation looked like. The authority was completely yours. On an infinitely larger scale, God is the artist of all we see and know.

## READ GENESIS 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26

### POINT 2: Creation submits to its Creator

Because God was before the beginning, when he, in his perfect timing, decided to create this heaven and earth, he did it all. With just his words, God established all of creation—he didn't have to lift a finger. When God commanded the different elements of creation (light, water, living things, etc.) to form and respond to him, they did. Out of obedience to the Creator, every single piece of creation formed and came into existence through the simple command of God. And all of it was good.

God has ultimate authority over all things because he is the Creator of all things. Everything we see and know ultimately falls under the Lord's authority.

## READ GENESIS 1:27-31

### POINT 3: We are image-bearers of God

God made us in his image. Of all the things in creation that God spent time crafting, we are his favorites. We got special treatment. In some mysterious and amazing way, we are reflections of who God is.

*ILLUSTRATION:* Bring a picture of your parents or kids. Point out the similarities in appearance, mannerisms, interests, or abilities.

Just as we have similarities to our earthly parents, we all possess character traits of our heavenly Father. Maybe we like to build or make things, resembling God's characteristic of Creator. Maybe we are protective or loyal to others, reflecting God's protective nature (2 Sam. 22:3-4). Knowing all people bear God's image should influence how we treat and speak to others.

### CLOSING REFLECTION

*Use this prompt to wrap up your message and leave your students with a challenge to apply.*

- How do you see God's authority carried out over all of creation today?
- How do you think you reflect the image of God?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

*Pick a few questions from below to discuss. Close with prayer.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What's your favorite comeback story?
- When have you made something just because you wanted to and liked doing it?
- What's one thing you've broken that you would do anything to have back good as new?
- What is something you noticed or heard today that is new to you about the Creation story?
- How does thinking about how the earth was created to be change the way you think about the world as you see it today?
- What parts of God's original creation do you think we miss the most today?
- Being made in God's image is a powerful and mysterious thing. How do you think you reflect the image of God?

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- How does reflecting God's image involve caring for his creation and other people?
- How does knowing God created you and your world just because he wanted to make something good change how you think about yourself and the world?

### PRAYER

Close by praying or invite someone to pray for your group.  
*Use this space to keep track of any prayer requests.*

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