

**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
“The Old Has Gone” Series  
Part 2: Image Bearer (Genesis 1:26–28)

**Icebreaker Questions:** (*Option #1*): If you had to survive on one fast-food restaurant for a year, which would you choose and why? (*Option #2*): Who is someone you admire, and what qualities of theirs have rubbed off on you?

**Prayer:** Take a few moments at the beginning of your group time to pray for God’s presence and blessing on your discussion. At the end of your gathering, pray for one another and ask God to use your time together to strengthen your faith and make you more like Jesus.

**Read:** Genesis 1:26–28, 31; Psalm 8:3–6; James 3:9–10; Colossians 1:15; Colossians 3:9–10

**Big Idea:** Humans were created to reflect God and to enjoy a relationship with him, which gives them incomparable dignity and purpose. Sin has distorted that image, but Jesus perfectly reveals God and is restoring us into his likeness.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What was the most encouraging, convicting, confusing, or thought-provoking part of the sermon or Scripture reading to you this week, and why?
2. Read Genesis 1:26–28, 31. What does it mean to be created in the image of God? Why do you think this is emphasized multiple times from the very beginning of creation?
  - a. How does being made in the image of God shape our identity?
  - b. Our culture often says, "Find yourself" or "Create yourself." How is the Bible's teaching on identity different?
  - c. How does it shape the way we handle criticism? Rejection? Failure? Aging? Transition seasons of jobs, kids, marriage, suffering, etc.?
3. How can we “image” God in our lives?
  - a. How have you seen one another in your group reflect God and his goodness?
  - b. How would you like to work on imaging God in your life?
  - c. How is "imaging God" different from simply being a moral person?
4. Read James 3:9–10. How does the image of God shape how we view or treat others? Ourselves?
  - a. What is one way you feel convicted to treat others/yourself differently (or view your identity differently) because of the concept of the image of God?
5. Read Colossians 1:15 and Colossians 3:10. How do these passages give hope when we feel broken or ashamed? How does a relationship with Christ renew us in God’s image?
6. Where do you see the gospel in today’s passage? How does today’s text and discussion make Jesus/the gospel more precious to you?
7. What is one specific way you would like to apply today’s Scripture passage or small group discussion this next week?

## **Scripture Reading**

### **Genesis 1:26–28, 31 (NIV)**

26 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.”

27 So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” ... 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

### **Psalms 8:3–6 (NIV)**

3 When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

5 You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet...

### **James 3:9–10 (NIV)**

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

### **Colossians 1:15 (NIV)**

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

### **Colossians 3:9–10 (NIV)**

9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.