

# SKEPTICAL

## UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

### WEEK 5 - *GENESIS 2*

#### LEADER NOTES

There is no doubt that in our culture today, the question of identity is the most pressing issue for those within and outside of the church. We see the question of identity and purpose everywhere we look. While many seek answers from social media, news networks, or even other people, the Bible speaks clearly on the issue of purpose and identity. We must understand that we are created in God's image, we were created male and female, and we were created with and for a purpose.

As we are working through some of our faith's biggest questions, encourage your group to ask all the questions that they may have. Create an environment that makes the people in your group feel comfortable to ask these questions.

In addition, the topics we are addressing can be daunting. We want to encourage you and those in your group to listen to other Teaching Pastors sermons on these topics. You can find their messages [HERE](#).

Please continue to ask your group about gospel connections and conversations. You can complete the form [HERE](#).

# COMMUNITY

*OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.*

**START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

## OPENING QUESTIONS:

- *HOW WOULD YOUR FRIENDS DESCRIBE YOU?*
- *WHAT WOULD THEY SAY ARE YOUR STRENGTHS, GIFTS, AND WEAKNESSES?*

# SCRIPTURE

**TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.**

## THE POINT

**WHAT GOD CREATED, HE HAS THE RIGHT TO COMMAND.**

### **Genesis 1:26-28**

26 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."

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

28 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."

### **Genesis 2:7**

7 ...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

## **Genesis 2:15-25**

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for[e] him." 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed[f] every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam[g] there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man."

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7, 2:15-25.

# STUDY NOTES

This study can be broken down into three parts, much like the sermon.

## **1) You are Created in God's Image.**

The term "image" refers to the aspects of reason, personality, the ability to make value judgments, and other qualities that cause a human being to resemble God. Just as family members take on the qualities and personality traits of one another, God created people in His own image to reflect some of His qualities.

Following His creation of human beings, God declared His completed creation to be very good. Nothing further needed to be made. His creation was exactly how He had planned it, including continual care for His creation through the provision of seed-bearing plants that will continue to produce. The completed creation reflects God's glory greater than any of its individual parts. God expressed delight over what He had made thus far.

## **2) You are Created for Mission.**

The description of the creation of humans comprises a longer account than the creation of any other living thing. The use of the phrase "Let Us," rather than "Let there be" indicates God's personal involvement in humanity's creation. The way God created man hinted that His relationship with humans would be unique.

## **3) You are Created Male and Female.**

God intentionally made male and female for a specific purpose. He did not intend for us to decide who we would become or desire to be. For instance, these verses identify the roles God gave to men and women. He designed men and women to compliment each other to accomplish God's work.

"When we receive our identity from God, the pressure of self-identification melts away. We don't live seeking to understand how we feel and what that means. We live in the objective reality of how He's made us and what He has called us to be and do. Furthermore, the pressure to impress and seek approval dies when our identity is found in God. Who cares what others think about us when we know what the God of the universe thinks about us? Why should we live to impress others when we have been called to simply please the One who has made us? Who are we? That question has already been answered. We are God's very own creation, made in His image and for His glory." (Dallas Wilson, Resource Guide)

***For more resources on this passage click the resources link [HERE](#).***

# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *How do contradictory voices in our culture distract us from seeing each other as image-bearers?*
- *How should knowing you are made in God's image affect your relationship with God and with other people?*
- *According to these passages, what are the roles of men and women?*
- *Does the fact that God values you change the way you view yourself?*
- *How does sin blur the meaning of our identity as humans?*
- *As sinners, how can we discover and live our created identity? (Through the salvation of Christ)*

# COMMISSION

**AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.**

- **OUR CULTURE IS SKEPTICAL OF THE CLAIMS OF CHRISTIANITY. HOW DOES OUR DISCUSSION THIS WEEK EFFECT THE WAY YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE IN THIS WORLD?**
- **WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO KNOW JESUS?**