

Discussion questions

Genesis 1v24 – 31

'In the beginning...The Image of God'

Possible opening: What makes a portrait great? What makes it stand out?

Read Genesis 1v24-31 What stands out for you in this passage? What do you think are the surprises? What difficulties are there? What do you think are some of the major themes to consider?

1. v24-25. Compare and contrast the creation of the animals (v24-25) with the creation of mankind (v26).
 - a. In what ways in Genesis 1 is man identified with the animals and in what ways is mankind shown to be distinct?
 - b. What responsibility does mankind have towards animals, according to this passage?

2. V26-27 In what ways does mankind image God? Is like God? Think about what we see mankind doing in Genesis 2 to help flesh this out.
 - a. You might like to consider the following headings
 - i. what mankind is like as a being compared say to the rest of creation (*personal, thinking, speaking, relational, worshipper*)
 - ii. mankind's original character (*made upright, righteous, holy*)
 - iii. mankind's abilities (*creating, acting, speaking, intelligence, able to know/speak to God*)
 - iv. mankind's task (*ruling over, subduing, God's vice regent on earth, resting*)
 - b. How is the image of God impacted by the Fall? Consider Gen 9:6, 1 Cor 11:7, Col 3:10
 - c. How does the idea of being in the image of God come into even sharper focus with the coming of Christ?
 - d. What does this v27 tell us about the significance of our gender?
 - e. What implications does it have for how you view yourself, to know that you are made in God's image? How you view and relate to other people? (Ref Psalm 139v13-14)

3. V28-31. Cultural mandate.
 - a. What is the significance of the instructions given in these verses? What is the task mankind has? How does this link with the idea of mankind made in God's image?
 - b. In what ways does this task continue in what ways is it modified in light of Genesis 3? Consider the connections between Matthew 28:18-20 and Gen 1:28