

Module 1, Week 3

Imago Dei

Monday:

Core Truth from Sunday: Read the Bible for what it is, not what we want it to be.

Notes:

The Bible is _____ story, not _____ story.

The _____ of the _____ life is _____ on _____.

What does it look like to build my life on Jesus' Teachings?

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

Notes:

Application:

What is it we need to do?

- Read our bibles
 - What practical thing can we do to start reading our Bible regularly?
 - _____
- Believe The Bible
 - Do I believe what I just read? What's keeping me from believing?
 - _____
- Build our lives on the Bible.
 - Do I have a habit of starting with my ideas or God's ideas?
 - _____
- Do what the Bible says to do.
 - Read the Bible for what it is, not what we want it to be.
 - What is one area of my life that needs to be adjusted to God's truth?
 - _____

Prayer Focus:

- Pray this prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me to apply these truths to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes."

Tuesday:

There is a guy I know, let's call him John. I'm not exactly sure of his age, except that I know that it's pretty close to mine. He's a good guy. He works hard and puts in his best on the clock even when he doesn't feel like it.

Working hard has never been John's problem. In fact, if you worked with him, he'd probably be the guy you hate because he outworks everyone around him. He gets there on time and stays late. He produces more than most.

But the thing about John is this, he probably won't be around for long. Even though John is only in his mid thirties, he's probably had 20 or more different jobs. His jobs have varied in about as many ways as you can imagine. Working in stores and working for himself. Starting companies and selling companies.

John also has a pattern. He starts a new job with enthusiasm. He gets excited about all the possibilities as well as all the new and exciting things he's going to get to do. And that keeps him interested in his new job for a while. But inevitably things change. He gets tired of the work. He gets tired of his coworkers. He gets tired of his boss. And before you know it, he's quitting again and finding somewhere else to work. It might be the same field of work, it might be something entirely different.

But you can almost guarantee what's going to happen. He'll be moving on from that job soon too.

I bet you know someone like John. There seem to be plenty of them around. And even if they don't play out the same way as John's story does, the underlying cause is the same.

They may not jump from job to job, but they are deeply dissatisfied with their jobs or their careers. They're not going to leave because they like the security of the income, but if they could try something out without any repercussions, they'd be handing in their two-weeks notice tomorrow.

Why is that? Why do you think so many people are so unhappy with their careers and ultimately, their lives? I think it comes down to this one simple thing, they don't know why they were created. When you know why you were created, you know the purpose of your existence. And when you know why you exist, you don't try to put other things in the seat of that purpose.

But, when you don't know your purpose, you are constantly looking for something new to put on the purpose seat of your life. Always hoping that next thing will finally bring you the peace you've never had. Until we know our purpose, the purpose of our lives will be to try to find our purpose. We don't have time for anything else because we don't know who or what we're supposed to be.

When we know our purpose, we can live with purpose.

Pray these prayers:

- "Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes..."
- "...Through the power of your Spirit, prepare me to be able to apply the truth I am learning this week..."

Wednesday:

Memory Verse:

- Gen 1:26
 - "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."

Read the verse out-loud 5 times then, Go to www.68church.com to download wallpaper for your computer or smartphone to help you learn this scripture throughout the week.

Prayer Focus

- “Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes...”
- Pray through the verse. Simply read the verse with an attitude of worship:
 - “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.”
 - God, thank you for making me in your image. Thank you for giving us your creation to enjoy and for trusting us to care for it.

Thursday:

Study the passage in context from Wednesday.

- The context of this passage is the entire first chapter of Genesis. So take just a few minutes to read the very first chapter of the God Story.
- Genesis 1:26
 - “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.”

When studying sections of scripture, here are four questions that are helpful to ask:

What is the context of this passage? (What was going on in the chapter(s) leading up to this passage?)

What does this passage say?

What is the timeless truth that is being stated?

How do I apply this truth to my life?

Prayer focus

- “Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes...”
- “...as I seek to understand more of your written word, would you open my mind to your truth. Teach me to understand your ways and give me strength to live in them...”

Friday:

As we learned last week, God’s word is the foundation for our lives. It is full of truths and principles that, when applied to our lives, build a God honoring existence. Not just that, but that we must read the Bible for what it is, not what we want it to be. We don’t get to cut the parts we don’t like and keep the parts we do.

As we look at this week’s principle, when we know our purpose we can live with purpose, we see just how important God’s word is for living. We have the duty and privilege of learning God’s word, internalizing it and adapting our lifestyle accordingly.

But, let’s take a look at some who didn’t. In 2 Kings 17, we get a short little story about Hoshea son of Elah who became king of Israel in Samaria. What happens in a few short sentences covers a couple of years’ time. The king of Assyria comes in and puts Hoshea in prison, attacks the northern kingdom of Israel and scatters its inhabitants. It’s a harsh couple of verses.

Why did this happen? Not simply because Hoshea was a traitor. But because he and the people of the northern kingdom did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord.

First notice that it was their actions that are the problem. God doesn’t mention that what they believed was good and right, they just weren’t living up to their beliefs - so they get a pass. No, they had sinned against God, who had brought them out of slavery.

Instead of following God’s decrees and laws, they followed the laws of the land they were living in. They cared more about fitting in to their surroundings than they did about the God who created their surroundings. From big city to small city, they worshipped other gods and set up altars to them.

Notice how they are described in 2 Kings 17:15: "They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors and the statutes he had warned them to keep. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the LORD had ordered them, "Do not do as they do."

"They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless." They decided to worship idols made by men, and by choosing to worship this idol they became worthless. What does that mean. It means that our worth comes from whose image we are made in. And our creator is the only worthy of our worship. Our worth comes from the image we bear of the God who has infinite worth.

As soon as we decide to worship something other than our creator, some man-made thing, we become worthless. Why is that? Our purpose in being on this earth is to bring glory to God. Yes, He created us for other things, but our primary responsibility is to give glory to God, to worship God. Worship comes from the anglo-saxon phrase worthship. Worship is ascribing worth to something. Worth ship. When we worship, we are ascribing worth to what we worship. And if what we are worshipping isn't God, then we are guilty of the same thing those in the northern kingdom were guilty of - ascribing worth to something that was worthless.

Could it be that our value as humans is directly attached to what we ascribe worth to? Or more simply, our value is in what we value. And if we ascribe worth to something other than God, then do we become worthless as well? Of what worth are we to God, if we don't give him the glory? It seems that might be the point.

Thankfully, God was willing to go to great lengths to make a way for us to live our lives for His glory. God, throughout history, has never been content to give up on mankind, despite all our failures at giving the glory He was due to other, worthless things. Our history of failure is pretty epic. But God's grace is greater than our failures, and our sin - no matter how epic - is no match for God's glory. Thankfully for us, He is very gracious in leading us to give him glory.

Prayer focus:

- "Heavenly Father, as we continue to think about what we learned last week, help me to not be satisfied with knowing the facts. Give me a deep desire to live out with my actions what I know with my intentions..."
- Ask God to remind you of things He has done in your life this week so that you can share them with some of us on Sunday.
- Pray and expect God to create opportunities for you to invest in your relationship with one of your 8 to 15 and then invite them to church on Sunday.

Saturday: Rest