

ACTNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Cell Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Cell Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

## The Beginning: The Humans

Genesis 1:26-31

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### SERMON SYNOPSIS

- On the sixth day of creation, God made mankind in His image and likeness. To be created in God's image means to be reflectors of God's nature.
- Like God, we are created to be relational beings. God created us to be intimately related to Him, and to community. However, we often find ourselves relating to material things of the world. Humans have instead sought meaning in things created instead of their creator.
- To be created in God's image means that we possess incredible value, dignity and worth. These are things God sees in us. Bearing this in mind, we should not allow the words or actions of others mislead us into believing that we are of less value. Likewise, we must be mindful of how we treat others who also possess this same intrinsic value.
- God has given mankind dominion over the earth; over the fish in the sea and birds in the sky. We are empowered to rise above any situation we face, as we are reflectors of a God who is sovereign in our lives, and not to be overcome by our circumstances.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the knowledge that you are created in the image of God make you feel?

[Children's Activity: Parents and children can participate in this game together. Get everyone to send their baby photo to one member of the CG who will facilitate this game. The facilitator will collate all the baby photos and print them on a piece of paper – just photos without names. Either in teams or individually, (i) identify the CG members based on their baby photos, (ii) match parent(s) and child(ren) based on all the baby photos. Fastest individual or team wins. Often, the child's baby photo will look quite similar to one of their parent's own baby photo. Explain to the children that just as they bear similarities to their parent, we bear similarities to God, whom we are made in His image (not physical, but traits like being relational, having creativity, able to love etc.)]

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2. If we are to be reflectors of God, why do we find ourselves behaving in ways that are inconsistent with God's nature? How should we live to properly reflect God's nature?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Romans 7:15-20; Exodus 34:28-29; 2 Corinthians 3:12-18]

3. One of the traits of being created in the image of God is that we are made to be relational and develop our relationship with God and others. Is there anything preventing you from growing your relationship with God and others from being superficial to one that is authentic? What practical steps can you take to develop authenticity starting with the cell group?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Colossians 3:12-14; Proverbs 28:13; Luke 6:36-37]

### PRAYER POINTERS

- Thank God for the reminder that we are created in His image and that we are of value and worth.
- Ask that God restores all who have been hurt and doubted their value and worth.
- Ask the Lord to help us grow deeper in our relationship with Him and others, that we will take steps to growth in faith together as a cell group.

### MEMORY VERSE

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. [Psalms 139:13-14, ESV]

### PRACTICAL HANDLE

Have you been treating people around you as people of value, created in the image of God? Make a record each time you did or said something that failed to honour someone as a creation of God. Reflect on your words or deeds at the end of the week and think about how you could have changed your words or acted differently to honour the person and remind him/her that he/she is of intrinsic value.