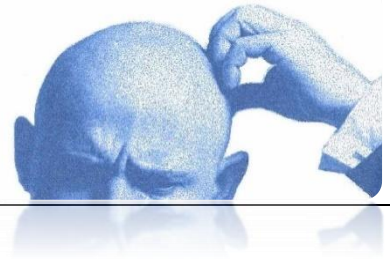


## Identity

# Small Group Questions

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The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series this fall will explore Genesis 1-11 (Origins). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories *BEFORE* you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Read **Genesis 1:24-31**. What do you notice?
- What are the differences between the creation of animals and humans?
- What does it mean to be made “in the image God”?
- In what ways do humans bear God’s likeness? How are we different?
- Who is the “us” in verse 26? Does that make any difference in how we understand being made in the image of God?
- In Genesis 1, the phrase “heavens and earth” is said to be a merism, a figure of speech that uses contrasting points to express totality. Does the phrase “male and female” function in the same way? Why or why not? Why might this be important?
- How does being made in the image of God affect how we understand gender roles? Does **Genesis 2:18-24** suggest something different for women?
- Clearly being created in God’s image is not the whole story. What does **Genesis 3:1-7** tell us about our identity?
- Read **Colossians 1:15-20**. Consider this text alongside the Genesis account. What is significant about Jesus being “the image of the invisible God”? What does this highlight in terms of his mission on earth?

**In the coming week you are invited to read Genesis 2:4-25.**

- What stood out to you in this story?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you think differently about God?
- How might this change the way we live?