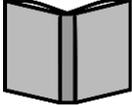


Small Group/ Reflection Notes

Session 6:		Let us make living creatures, and humanity in our image – Day 6
 Read	Genesis 1:24-31	 Listen again ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> What animal makes you laugh? Go 'wow'? <input type="checkbox"/> What distinguishes humans from animals? <input type="checkbox"/> Why do humans treat other humans so badly at times? <input type="checkbox"/> How responsible do you feel for other living creatures? <input type="checkbox"/> How willing are you to change your lifestyle in order to protect the environment?	
 Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1:26: What does it mean to be made 'in the image of God'? How/ why does that affect how we live? Treat others? Treat creation? <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2:10: To what extent do you feel you are God's workmanship (a priceless art treasure)? What are the 'good works' you were created to do?	
 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 139:14: To what extent do you feel 'fearfully and wonderfully made'?	
 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate someone today. <input type="checkbox"/> Mend something today, so as to avoid waste, landfill and climate change. <input type="checkbox"/> What 'next step' could <i>you</i> take to protect living creatures in your environment?	
 Pray	<p><i>Dear God,</i> <i>Thank you for the beauty and wonder of all the You have made. In particular, I thank you for ____.</i> <i>God, You say I am 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. Forgive me when I ____.</i> <i>Help me to ____.</i> <i>Amen</i></p>	
 My question:		



If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one!

Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups

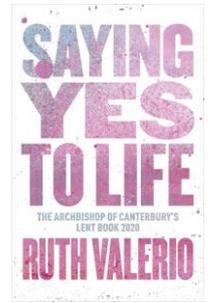
Can't see a small group that suits your availability/ interest? Why not start one!

Email: SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk

Background

Genesis 1:24-31: Day 6 - God said, “Let us make living creatures, and humanity in our image”

Now, on this final day, God speaks living creatures into being. He organises them “according to their kind”. Again, such diversity. We share this world with the most incredible and wonderful mix of strange, colourful, funny, scary, cuddly, scaly, odd, tiny, huge creatures. No wonder God declares what He has made to be good.



Yet, once again, human behaviour is harming what God declared good. Currently, one in four mammals is at risk of extinction. The UK hedgehog population has dropped from an estimated 30 million in the 1950s to just a million today. There are now just two Northern White Rhinoceros left in the world, and both are female.

We were not meant to be in isolation. To be human is to exist in relationship with the rest of creation. God did not just make humanity. He made all the living creatures.

To be human is also to exist in relationship with other humans. We are not alone. We rely on each other.

To be human is also to exist in relationship with God. God breathed life into humanity. As a result, every human comes into the world pre-loaded with the capacity and need for God. But, we should avoid any boastful thought that humans are superior to animals. We were all ‘made’ on the same day, humans were not given their own day.

However, whereas all living creatures were made ‘according to their kind’, humans were uniquely made ‘in the image of God’.

Being God’s ‘image bearers’ brings responsibilities. It affects how we view one another, humans-to-human. It is as if we carry God’s ‘DNA’. When you love someone, it is because God IS love. God is the source of all love. Others can experience love because we are made in the image of love. We are tasked with caring for the rest of creation as He does.

ALL people are made in the image of God, not just the ones we like, agree with, or are like us. There is radical inclusion, unity and equality built into creation. Every single person is ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’ (Ps.139:14). That calls for greater justice, respect and celebration of people, in all our diversity, difference and vividness. When we accept that all means all – ALL are made in the image of God – then we will not tolerate any injustice, be that racism, sexism, homophobia, sexual abuse, domestic violence, violence... We lose something of what it means to be human, when trash what God declared VERY good.

Once again, our human behaviour is threatening the existence of what God made and declared good. It’s the responsibility of all of us to live responsibly and sustainably. Humans could not exist without the rest of Creation. Ironically, it is our failure to live sustainably that is threatening, not only the existence of living creatures, but that of humanity too.

When we are labelled ‘consumers’ we lose something of our humanity. Consumerism, and the desire to have more and more of whatever – often as a way to assert our belonging or superiority – is leading us to do untold damage to God’s creation.

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