

# It's Great to be Human

Sunday, October 16, 2016

Gen 1:24-31

## People are Created in the Image of God

**Day 6** – Of highly structured passage

**Pattern** – God Said – It was so – It was good

**Culmination** – People the Culmination of the Pattern

**Meaning** – Directly about “The Meaning of Life”

## Purpose

**Purpose** – World and People

**Quote** – IVP Bible Background Commentary

**World** – For gods vs For people

**People** – Serve the gods vs Centrepiece

## Image of God

**Quote** – IVP Bible Background Commentary

**Image** – Carry the Essence of that which it represented

**Put in Charge** – Governing work of God done by people

**Represent God** – To be and act like him

## Responsible Partner

**“Rule”**

Manage, Steward, Cultivate, Care For

Responsible Partner

God’s Representative in World

## Deep Human Dignity

Our Deep Drives Reflect This

Produce, Make, Create, Beauty, Art, Manage, Protect,  
Improve, Discover, Plan

# Small Group Guide

## Kicking off your Time Together

### Ice Breaker

What is one thing that you love to do?

### Opening Prayer

Have one or two open in prayer asking God to be present and to direct your time.

## What Did you Bring?

Did you bring anything to share to encourage the group?  
(consider 1 Cor 14:26 as the pattern for this part of the meeting)

## Read Passage

Have several people read part of this passage: Gen 1:24-31

## Discuss a few of these questions:

This chapter follows a clear pattern. How does the description of God making people differ from the description of other things?

What does it mean to be made “in the image of God”?

This passage speaks of people “ruling”. How can this be a dangerous idea? How can this be a good idea?

If you were to think of “the meaning of life”, what insights could you take from this passage?

## Pray for Each Other

In light of all that has been shared, pray for each other.  
You may want to share specific requests.

## Commentary Quotes

Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H. (2000). The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament (electronic ed., Ge 1:31). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

**1:26–31. function of people.** While the organizational or functional focus of the account may have similarities with the ancient Near Eastern perspective, the reason for it all is quite different. In the ancient Near East, the gods created for themselves—the world was their environment for their enjoyment and existence. People were created only as an afterthought, when the gods needed slave labor to help provide the conveniences of life (such as irrigation trenches). In the Bible the cosmos was created and organized to function on behalf of the people that God planned as the centerpiece of his creation.

**1:26–27. image of God.** When God created people, he put them in charge of all of his creation. He endowed them with his own image. In the ancient world an image was believed to carry the essence of that which it represented. An idol image of deity, the same terminology as used here, would be used in the worship of that deity because it contained the deity's essence. This would not suggest that the image could do what the deity could do, nor that it looked the same as the deity. Rather, the deity's work was thought to be accomplished through the idol. In similar ways the governing work of God was seen to be accomplished by people. But that is not all there is to the image of God. [Genesis 5:1–3](#) likens the image of God in Adam to the image of Adam in Seth. .... What draws the idol imagery and the child imagery together is the concept that the image provides the capacity not only to serve in the place of God (his representative containing his essence) but also to be and act like him. The tools he provided so that we may accomplish that task include conscience, self-awareness and spiritual discernment.