



## Introduction

Pastor John started our new series, Big Story, this week with texts from Genesis in his message entitled "Reigned." The crowning achievement of God's creative reign is you. Being "created in the image of God" means we innately reflect God's attributes; we are creative, intelligent, relational, spiritual beings with the ability to communicate and the capacity for moral responsibility. We were created to reflect His image to the world in all of our relationships in order to bring Him glory.

## Discussion

1. **Read Matthew 22:34-40.** Why did Jesus' answer stump the Pharisees and Sadducees? Paraphrase, or put in your own words, verse 37. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart? Your soul? Your mind?
2. **Read Ephesians 4:22-24.** How do these verses relate to the verses in question 1? How can we be "made new in the attitude of our minds"? With your group, share a wrong attitude you've had, or maybe still have, about how God created you. Take time to pray about how to be "like God in true righteousness and holiness."
3. In light of Pastor John's message, what relational issues are hardest for you right now? Your relationship with God? With certain people? With yourself? As a group, take time to jot down some thoughts and give each member time to share what they have written. Pray as a group to see Creator God the Father in a new and deeper way.

## Think About It

"Learning to see what God sees is a powerful key in right believing. It involves replacing your wrong beliefs with right beliefs based on God's Word" (Joseph Prince, *The Power of Right Believing*). Genesis says we were created as a perfect reflection of God our Creator. We are loved deeply, forever, by our Father Creator God. He loved us so much He sent His own Son to take away our sins so we could be with Him forever. He planted in us everything we need to carry out the mission He has for us to "bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1). This is who our loving God created us to be - His hands, His feet to a broken world. Stake your beliefs in what the Word says, not what the world says.

## Do Something

1. Find some quiet time this week to write a note to God about what it means to you to be created in His image. Find a verse that speaks truth about our Father, our Creator God, and post it in a place you can see it and reflect on it this week.
2. What can your group do this week to encourage someone in your circle who is struggling with their image of who they are in Christ? Find a way of including them in your group and pray for them to see their Creator in a new way.
3. Finish the fall season strong with intentional invites to people in your circle who need to see the body of Christ, His image, at work in their community. Grill-outs, tailgates, movie nights, picnics or even a coffee date are all great ways of including people who need to see Christ in you!