

## Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Weekly Devotionals | August 24

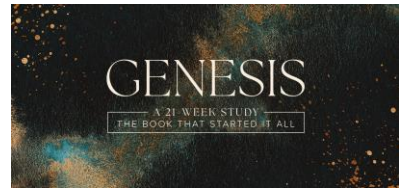
### **OPEN with prayer.**

Begin this devotional exercise by finding a quiet place where you can spend time with God in His word. Before reading, pray that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes and heart to what God wants to say to you.

Still in a posture of prayer, take a look back over your notes from the last week or two on what it means to be created in the image of God – our resemblance, respect, relationships, responsibility, and renewal. Keep that in mind as you work through this devotional.

### **Read Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 5:1-2.**

- What do you notice about verse 27? Why do you think the repetition of “the image of God” is important? What does it mean to have those phrases followed by “male and female he created them”?
- Genesis 5 says God created male and female *and blessed them*. What blessing do you think this is referring to? How is it tied to them being male and female?
- Let’s read more about what this blessing and purpose might be. For each passage, describe the blessing, purpose, and distinction of being created male and female.
  - Psalm 139:13-14
  - Proverbs 31:10-31
  - Ephesians 5:22-33
  - 1 Peter 3:7
  - Matthew 19:4-6
- As you reflect on those passages, what are your thoughts and emotions about them? What are you grateful for? What questions or concerns arise? Journal about those and share them with God.
- **Read Galatians 3:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 11:11-12.**
  - What do these scriptures say about the distinction of genders and all other classifications of people?
  - How do they affirm the uniqueness of how we’re created while also pointing us to our true identity in the completeness of Christ?



- How does the distinction of our genders ultimately glorify God and reveal God to the world?

## **PRAY**

Take anything that you reflected on above and pray that to God. Then pray this prayer to close your time.

*Father, I thank You for making me in Your image and for the gift of my gender. You formed me with care and intention, and You call me good. Help me to receive my identity as male/female with gratitude, to honor You in how I live it out, and to walk in the purposes You have for me. May my life reflect Your wisdom and love. Amen.*