



Faithful: *Genesis and the God Who's Always Working*

- ⇒ Remember that groups are a place to practice what is preached—in community with God and one another.
- ⇒ Spend a few minutes after everyone arrives getting to know each other. Consider a basic ice breaker for everyone to answer after they have introduced themselves to the group.
- ⇒ Pray together for the Holy Spirit to open everyone's eyes to see wonderful things in the Bible (Psalm 119:18).

Have a member of the group read **Genesis 1:26** aloud.

- This verse is known as the *cultural* or *creation mandate*. Only human beings were created in the image of God. We finitely display God's infinite attributes such as life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, and justice.

How do you personally struggle with recognizing that you bear the very image of God? What would change about your life if you were consciously aware that God has invited *you* to initiate change in what sin has corrupted?

The second point from Sunday's message was that God is the *sustainer* of all.

- Genesis highlights the lives of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. They certainly don't get everything right, but their lives are marked by obedience to the things God tells them to do. God sustains life through this family line and unfolds a wonderful plan of redemption.

Have other members of the group read **Deuteronomy 30:19-20** and **Matthew 7:13-14**.

The opportunity to choose the path that leads to life or death is set before us each and every day. Why do you think obedience is often overlooked as a necessary discipline in the life of every believer? Do you think most people who claim to follow Jesus know what obedience looks like? What does obedience look like according to what the Bible teaches?

Tim Keller says that Jesus is the true and better Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. In **1 John 2:1-2**, the apostle states "if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." Through Christ we are free from the penalty of sin in order to be His obedient ambassadors (**2 Corinthians 5:20**).

⇒ Recap: Human beings bear the image of God. God sustains life for His redemptive purposes. The paths leading to life and death are before us. Though imperfectly, followers of Jesus lay aside their wants for the sake of obeying Jesus, the true and better Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. What is God telling you to do?

Close with a time of prayer for your group, our church, and for the courage to truly live Christ-centered lives in our families, church family, and community.