



RIDGEPOINT CHURCH • GROW GROUPS GUIDE

Made in the Image

Imago Dei

WEEK 1

GENESIS 1:26–28 • PSALM 8:4–9 • 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

Andy Owen • October 11, 2026



LEADER PREPARATION

Leader Announcements

- **Thank you for investing in your Grow Group each week!** If you have questions, need help, or are looking for additional resources, visit our Grow Group Leader page: ridgepointwichita.com/growleaders
- **Looking for an easy icebreaker? Grab the NOT JUST SUNDAYS card game** we handed out. Try just a few cards each week—have everyone answer one card, or let people choose between two. It's a simple way to keep building relationships!
- **This discussion guide is exactly that—a guide.** Skip questions, add your own, spend longer on a verse, or adjust it to fit your group. You know your group best! And if you have feedback on these guides, please let us know.

Opening (10 min)

OPENING QUESTION

What's the strangest or funniest experience you've had with AI or an automated system: a chatbot, a phone tree, a self-checkout that wouldn't cooperate? Did it leave you feeling more human or less?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week Pastor Andy launched “Imago Dei,” a new series on what it means to be human in a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence. Starting on the first page of the Bible, Genesis 1:26–28 tells us we are made in God’s image. In the ancient world, an “image” was a statue of a god or king placed in a temple to show who ruled and who should be worshiped. God forbade idols of Himself because He had already placed His image in His temple, the whole earth: it’s us. That gives every person dignity and worth that has nothing to do with what we can produce. Borrowing N. T. Wright’s picture of an angled mirror, Pastor Andy described our two-way calling: we reflect God to the world through our work and relationships, and we reflect the world back to God in worship. He closed by introducing his son Isaac, who is heading to Uganda to reflect God’s image through discipleship and creation care.

KEY POINTS

- ◆ **We are God’s image in His temple.** God made the earth His dwelling place and placed humanity in it to represent Him ([Genesis 1:26–27](#); [Isaiah 66:1](#)).
- ◆ **Our worth is given, not earned.** God crowned us with glory and honor, so our identity isn’t determined by what we accomplish ([Psalm 8:5](#)).
- ◆ **Reflect God to the world.** We receive from God and put His character on display in our work and relationships ([Habakkuk 2:14](#)).

- ◆ **Reflect the world back to God.** We were made to worship, something no technology can do for us ([Isaiah 43:21](#); [Revelation 4:11](#)).
- ◆ **We are being transformed.** As we look to Jesus, the Spirit makes us more and more like Him ([2 Corinthians 3:18](#)).



UP • 20 MIN

A Daily Relationship with God

BIG IDEA

Long before anyone asked what makes humans different from machines, God answered the question on the first page of the Bible. We are made in His image: not as a reward for being useful, but as a gift that gives every person dignity and purpose. Our relationship with God starts right there. He made us to receive from Him and to return to Him in worship.

SCRIPTURE AT THE CENTER

Genesis 1:26–28 (ESV)

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

“Let us” is often seen as an early hint of the Trinity: humanity was a joint work of Father, Son, and Spirit. “Male and female” means both bear God’s image equally, a radical idea in that day. And where other nations set up statues to represent their gods, the one true God placed living people in His world to represent Him.

Psalms 8:4–9 (ESV)

“What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

The psalmist asks the very question our culture is asking: what is a human being? The answer is royal. We are crowned with glory and honor and entrusted with creation to steward, not exploit. Then the psalm ends where all of it should lead: in worship of God’s majestic name.

Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV)

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

God's glory is all of who He is on display. How will the earth be filled with it? Pastor Andy's answer: through you and me, as ordinary image-bearers make God known across the street and around the world.

Isaiah 43:21 (ESV)

"The people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise."

We weren't made only to be productive; we were made for God Himself. AI can write a nice prayer or plan a sample worship service, but it cannot worship. That is something only image-bearers were made to do.

Revelation 4:11 (ESV)

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Our word "worship" comes from the idea of worth: ascribing to God the worth He deserves. Heaven's reason for praising Him is simple. He made everything, including us.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

The mirror works two ways here too: we see the Lord, and we reflect Him. As we keep looking to Jesus, the Spirit changes us step by step into His likeness. Next week picks up the story of how sin marred that image and how Jesus restores it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Pastor Andy asked, "What does it mean to be human when AI is smarter and can do your job better?" Where do you tend to look for your worth: in what you produce, or in whose image you bear?
- ◆ Psalm 8 says God crowned you with glory and honor. What makes that easy or hard for you to believe about yourself?
- ◆ Picture the angled mirror. Which direction comes more naturally to you right now: reflecting God out to the world, or reflecting back to Him in worship? Why do you think that is?
- ◆ Pastor Andy said everything that happens to us can become an opportunity to worship: through prayer, thanksgiving, even lament. What is one thing from this past week you could bring back to God?



IN • 15 MIN

A Shared Life Together

WHY THIS MATTERS

Being made in God's image was never a solo project. The very first words, "Let us make," point to a God who exists as Father, Son, and Spirit in perfect relationship, and He made humanity "male and female," together and equal. In a world where the number one use of AI is still companionship, we need real people who see God's image in us and call it out.

GROWING TOGETHER

Pastor Andy described watching his son Isaac grow up: the hours exploring nature, the free-range guinea pig "lawn crew," the loyal friendships that pointed people to Jesus. He and his wife marveled at the specific ways God had made Isaac to reflect His glory. Your group gets to do the same for one another. You've already seen glimpses of how God wired each person here, and part of a shared life is saying those things out loud.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Pastor Andy mentioned a friend whose AI "best friend" gave relationship advice that hurt her bond with her sister. What can real people offer each other that a screen never will?
- ◆ If every person in this room bears God's image, how should that shape the way we listen to, disagree with, and care for one another?
- ◆ Go around the group: name one way you've seen someone here reflect God's character. Make sure everyone gets a turn to hear something.
- ◆ Who in your life needs to hear that their value doesn't depend on what they produce? How could you remind them this week?



OUT • 10 MIN

An Outward-Focused Faith

LIVING IT OUT

The mirror has a side that faces the world. We receive God's presence through His Spirit and then put Him on display: in small ways, like kindness to the person next to you in line at Dillons, and in big ways, like taking the gospel to an unreached people group. Whether you're a stay-at-home parent, a teacher, or a surgeon, doing your work with integrity and creativity shows the world what God is like. Isaac is living this out as he heads to Uganda to train pastors and young people and to care for creation through conservation and education.

Closing challenge: What would it look like to reflect God's character to the world around you through your work and relationships this week?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Think about where you'll spend most of your hours this week. What would it look like to reflect God's character in that specific place?
- ◆ Psalm 8 calls us to rule over creation by stewarding it, not exploiting it. What has God entrusted to you, and what would caring for it well look like?
- ◆ Isaac's story shows God using the passions He built into us. How might your interests, skills, or work become a way to point people to Jesus?

FOCUS ON GROUP PROJECT

OUT PROJECT Update

- **Depending on your group's OUT PROJECT**, there may not be much to report each week, and that's okay! The biggest thing is simply keeping us in the loop.
- If you haven't already: **Please let us know what your group has chosen for your OUT PROJECT.**
- As you go: Keep us updated on any significant changes, needs, or progress with your project.
- Need ideas, resources, or guidance? Visit our [Grow Group Leaders page](#) for more help.

Beyond the Sermon (optional, if time allows)

Two passages that weren't in Sunday's message but fit this week's theme. Use them if your group wants to go deeper.

James 3:9–10 (ESV)

"With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."

Why include it: The sermon focused on the dignity God gives us. James turns that truth toward everyone else. If every person bears God's likeness, then how we talk to and about people, in person or online, is tied to how we worship. It pairs naturally with the IN discussion.

Colossians 1:15 (ESV)

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."

Why include it: Pastor Andy noted that Jesus perfectly modeled what it means to be human. Paul says it plainly: Jesus is the image of God. If we want to see what the "angled mirror" was always meant to look like, we look at Him. It also sets up next week's message on how Jesus restores the image.

GOING DEEPER: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ James says blessing God and cursing people “ought not to be so” from the same mouth. Who is the hardest person for you to see as made in God’s likeness, and what might change if you did?
- ◆ Think about how you talk about people when they aren’t in the room: coworkers, family members, people you disagree with online. How does James 3:9 challenge that?
- ◆ Colossians 1:15 says Jesus is the image of the invisible God. What moment from Jesus’ life best shows you what a fully human life is supposed to look like?
- ◆ If we become more like Jesus by beholding Him (2 Corinthians 3:18), what actually helps you keep your eyes on Him during an ordinary week? What tends to pull your focus away?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together by inviting the group to share prayer requests. Then lead the group in prayer, drawing from these prompts from today’s sermon:

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Thank God for making each person in His image, with worth that doesn’t depend on what we produce (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:5).
- Pray that each person would reflect God’s character in their work and relationships this week (Habakkuk 2:14).
- Ask God to turn the ordinary moments of this week, joys and griefs alike, into opportunities to worship Him (Revelation 4:11).
- Pray for Isaac as he goes to Uganda, and that the Spirit would keep transforming all of us into the image of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18).



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