



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - August 5, 2012

Sermon

The Beauty of Creation:
“God Created Man and Woman”

Genesis 1:26-31 & Psalm 8
by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 8/6/12
Genesis 1:26

Who is God talking to here when God states, “Let us make man in our image, like us...?” Who was with God if Adam and Eve were the first created humans? Allow your mind to explore this question today. Ask some more and even deeper questions about this story of creation and about why and how God created man and woman. What was God’s intention? Why did God create us? What is our place in all of creation?

Tuesday 8/7/12
Genesis 1:27

Were you ever asked to draw a picture of God? If you were asked this question how would you draw an image of God? What would this image look like? Many of us picture God as a wise old man with a white or gray beard. This verse in the creation story is very clear: God made us in the image of God! We are made to look like and reflect the image of God. Imagine that! What is your image of God now? What does God look like? How similar or dissimilar are we to God?

Wednesday 8/8/12
Genesis 1:28-30

This part of the story makes it sound like human beings are in charge of everything else in all of creation. God gave the human beings a blessing and told them to be fertile and increase. Then God gave them dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over everything else. Even the plants and fruits were made to be food for the human beings. God apparently gave humans a mighty important place in creation. What do you think of this? What is our role in creation? What is our relationship with God? How close can we be to God as mere humans? What do you think God thinks of us?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

What customs or traditions do I celebrate at Christmas?

What makes Christmas special to me?

How can I spread some Christmas cheer to someone else this year?

Thursday 8/9/12
Psalm 8:1

God is God and we are just human. There appears to be such a vast difference between us and God. The psalmist here gives glory to God on high and holds up the very name of God. There is no glory in comparison to God's glory! The problem many people fall into is when they think too highly of themselves. This is a danger for every single human being on the face of the earth. We need to know our place in creation and our place in our relationship to God as well. Do you think too highly of yourself or are you humble? What would others close to you say in answer to this question about you?

Friday 8/10/12
Psalm 8:2

God's strength is made clear. We worship a mighty God indeed! Our God is an awesome and powerful God. This strength is mighty and it is clear. Even young ones know it and can sense it. And yet, there are those who are against God. Are you with God or are you against God? How do you know? Are you for God when things are not going well in your life or when things get difficult? Do you know the strength and power of Almighty God?

Saturday 8/11/12
Psalm 8:3-5

And yet, even as powerful, mighty, and strong as God is, God still made human beings! We are made in God's image! Verse 5 is the pinnacle of this psalm. Some translations interpret this verse that God made us just a little lower than the angels. Other translations, however, interpret this verse as saying that God made us humans just a little lower than God! Imagine and ponder this for a few minutes today. What is your place and role in creation? In relation to God? Do you know how important you really are to God?