

BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS

CENTRAL TRUTH

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, provides an epic beginning to the story of Scripture: the beginning of all things. As we begin this quarter's study, we will see that **God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things.**

KEY QUESTION

↓ **What do you think it means to be created in God's image and likeness?**

In verses 26-31, we learn about the crowning achievement of creation: human beings! God made both male and female in His image and likeness. Humankind has been set apart from the rest of God's creation. And as His image bearers, the human heart are to reflect God's character, rule, and goodness into the world.

KEEP IN MIND

- | Genesis 1:26-28 is foundational to our understanding of human dignity and value. In our day and age, students are continually bombarded with information that invites them to define themselves and others based on a variety of things. Emphasize that they have been created by God to enjoy a relationship with Him and reflect His goodness into the world.
- | Several times throughout the creation story, the Lord declares His work is good. This truth is highlighted throughout this week's session. Students need to be reminded that neither we nor the culture around us defines what is good. Only God, the Creator and Ruler of all things, can declare what is good.

APPLICATION

→ **In what ways should Genesis 1:26-28 shape the way we see ourselves and others?**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: Students "win" by understanding that our good God is the Creator and Ruler of all things and that He made people in His image and likeness to enjoy a relationship with Him and reflect His goodness to world.

FOR THE LEADER: Whether in your small group setting or throughout the week, remind students that they are valued and treasured by God as His image bearers.

7 ARROWS

- ↻ What does this passage say?
- ↑ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ← What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ↔ How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
- ↓ What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
- ↺ How does this passage prompt me to pray?
- What does this passage demand of me?