

Lesson 0 – Born of Love (The Beginning of Everything)

Introduction

The Christian journey does not begin with brokenness but with beauty. Before the fall of man, there was the love of God. Our identity, value, and destiny flow from the fact that God Himself is love, and He created us out of that love. Understanding this beginning is crucial, because discipleship is not about trying to earn God's love but living from the love that has always been there.

Teaching Session

1. Created in God's Image

Genesis 1:26–27 (NIV)

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- Being made in God's image means we were created with dignity, worth, and purpose.
 - We are reflections of His character, created for relationship, stewardship, and worship.
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2. God Is Love – The Foundation of Creation

1 John 4:8–9 (NIV)

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

- The essence of God's being is love.
 - Creation was not an accident or necessity, it was love expressed.
 - Even before salvation, God's heart for humanity was anchored in His love.
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3. Intimacy and Intentionality

Psalms 139:13–16 (NIV)

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven

together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

- God's love is not generic, it is personal.
 - He knows us intimately, even before our birth.
 - Every life has purpose, pre-written in God's book.
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4. Humanity's Original Commission

Genesis 1:28 (NIV)

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- Humanity was blessed before it was commanded.
 - God entrusted man and woman with stewardship, not domination.
 - Our purpose was always connected to God's blessing and mission.
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5. God's Desire for Fellowship

Genesis 3:8a (NIV)

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

- God's original design included daily fellowship with man.
 - The "cool of the day" paints a picture of intimacy and closeness.
 - This desire for fellowship has never changed, even after sin entered the world.
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Study & Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How should this shape the way you see yourself and others?
 2. If God is love, how should that affect the way we understand creation and our purpose?
 3. How does Psalm 139 shape your understanding of your personal worth and destiny?
 4. What are some ways you can live as a steward of creation in your everyday life?
 5. How does knowing that God desires fellowship with you change the way you approach prayer and worship?
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Application & Reflection

- **Memory Verse:** *“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”* (Genesis 1:27, NIV)
- **Personal Reflection:** Write down 3 areas of your life where you have struggled with self-worth. Place those under the truth of Genesis 1:27 and Psalm 139:13–16.
- **Group Activity:** Share one way you’ve personally experienced God’s love in your life. Encourage others by affirming the image of God you see in them.