

Genesis 1:26–29

²⁶ 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.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ 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.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

Genesis 2:15–25

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:1–8

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Small Group Study Questions

As you reflect on the message from this week, was there anything you heard for the first time? Was there something said that challenged you or confused you?

Getting to Know You

1. If you could design your dream house without any limitations on resources, what is one thing or feature you would love to include in your plans?

Digging Deeper

Our “Big Idea” this week is **his design is our delight**. God wants to give us great joy in our lives, but we must look to him and his design as the source of our delight. **Psalm 37** describes the rewards for those who seek their satisfaction in the Lord versus the judgment that comes upon those who live wickedly, seeking to satisfy their own desires.

Read **Psalm 37** carefully and prayerfully as you answer the following questions.

2. Verses 1–7 contain a string of “imperatives” (commands). List them below. Who or what is the focus of these commands?
3. Verse 4 (similar to the other verses) contains a command followed by a promise. What is the command? What is the promise? What does this show you about the path that God has designed to fulfill your desires?
4. Verses 8–40 describe the opposing paths of the wicked and the righteous. Take a few minutes to write down A) descriptions of the destiny for the wicked and B) descriptions of the destiny for the righteous from these verses.
5. Verse 23–24 & 30–31 describe what godly people desire the most. Why is it important not only to obey but also to delight in what God commands? How do these verses show the benefits of delighting in God's design?

One of our passages this week in our VBC Daily 3 devotionals (valleybible.org/vbcdaily3) is Romans 2:14–16. Take a few moments to answer our three questions: 1) What does this passage say about God? 2) What does it say about us? 3) What should we do about it?

Live It Out

God's design is our delight. Followers of Jesus understand that the moral compass for our lives must not be our desires apart from God. We must align our hearts with God's design for us, and when we do, we get to experience the delight he has designed for us to enjoy.

6. How have you been challenged personally to make God's design your delight? If there is an area in your life where you have not been following God's design, take some time to confess it to him and ask him to fix your appetite to hunger for what he wants. If appropriate, share this with someone in your group who can pray for you and encourage you to keep pursuing God's design.

7. Trusting our delight to the design of another, specifically God, can feel very risky to someone who is not yet a follower of Jesus. What is something you have learned about God's goodness and love through your experiences that has convinced you that trusting him is worth the risk?

Prayer Requests

One of the most significant ways we grow spiritually together is to pray for one another each week. Use this section to write down the requests of those in your group so you can remember to pray for them throughout the week. Remember: *what is shared in your group should stay in your group.*
