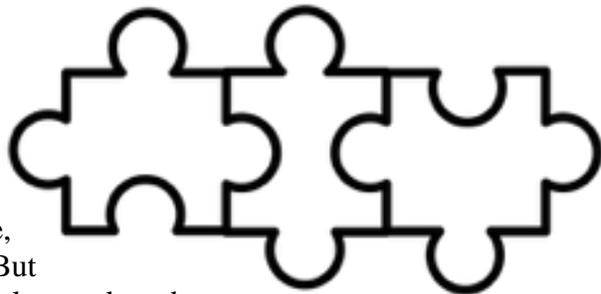


MONDAY: Who Am I?

If you were to find a puzzle piece all by itself, what would you do with it? Would you throw it away? Or would you look for the other pieces designed to fit with it to complete the picture?

When a piece is placed where it belongs, its shape, size, color, and style have meaning and purpose. But without the right context, the piece seems meaningless and random.



Sometimes our own lives can seem as random as a single puzzle piece. We struggle to see how who we are fits within the big picture. But the one who best understands each puzzle piece is the one who designed the picture and cut that picture into individual pieces to make the puzzle.

Because God created us and knows exactly how we fit into His big picture, He is the One who best understands us. Because God has given us the Bible, we know exactly what He had in mind when He created us.

1. Based on Genesis 1:27, what did God want for us when He created us? _____

A man named David wrote a song about who he was—a human made by the God who made everything.

2. Read Psalm 8:1–5. (If you open your Bible in the middle, you will likely be close to Psalms.)

Write out the two questions David asks in his song. _____

(Note: When David writes “son of man,” he means any “human.” He is not excluding woman.)

3. Based on David’s two questions, you can know that

- God is t____ _ about you.
- God is t____ _ c____ _ of you.

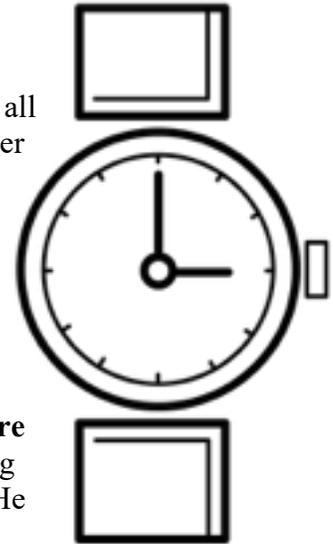
4. What do you think God is thinking today when He thinks about you? _____

TUESDAY: How Did I Get Here?

Imagine putting all the separate parts that make up a watch together in a box. Imagine putting the lid on that box and shaking it. You could shake all you want for as long as you want, but the parts would not connect together to form a working watch.

Something as complex as a watch has to be specifically designed and assembled by someone skilled at watchmaking. The same is true for you. You are complex. You have been put together by God, who is a supremely skilled artist and designer.

Many will tell you that humans evolved by accident—that's a lie. **You are not an accident. You are a masterpiece.** God was there in the beginning when He first designed humans. He wrote in His true Word about what He created and why.



1. Read Isaiah 45:12. What does God say about how you came to be here on the earth? _____

2. According to Isaiah 45:18, why did God make the earth? _____

On Monday, we read the first half of Psalm 8, where David says that God thinks about us and cares for us. Read Psalm 139:13–15, part of another song David wrote.

3. When did God put David together? _____

4. How does David feel about what God has done? _____

David is not bragging about himself. He is bragging about God. Voices in our culture and voices in our head often tell us that we are not tall enough, beautiful enough, smart enough, and so forth. But you do have a body that, for the most part, works. You have eyes that see. Ears that hear. Legs that move. A brain that thinks.

5. What else about how God made you can you thank Him for today? _____

WEDNESDAY: What Should I Do with My Life?

Grownups often ask little children, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Have you ever wondered if the grown-ups ask this question because they themselves are looking for possible ideas? Even some grownups are not sure what they want to be or do with their lives.

Asking the question, What should I do with my life? can give us the impression that we can freely choose to do whatever we want with our lives. Americans especially often talk about how in America people can be anything they want to be. But that idea, as pleasant as it sounds, is not entirely true.

You may “choose” to play for a professional sports team, but unless you have the right body size, are given training to develop your skills, make it through training without injury, and are chosen to be on the team, you will not be able to choose to play professionally.

The lump of clay doesn’t tell the potter what to shape it into. We are God’s work of art. He made the clay from which we are made. He shapes us and continues to develop His work in us so that we are capable of doing good work.



1. According to Ephesians 2:10, what are we? _____

As God’s creation, He created *you* to belong to Christ. It’s hard to feel like an outsider who doesn’t belong at school or home or church or with a group of “friends.” But God actually made you to belong to Himself. **You are wanted.** He loves you!

Our study in Genesis taught you that God designed the first man and woman as king and queen of creation. By God’s design, humans are to rule *under* God, but *over* things on earth.

2. Read Psalm 8:5–9. How many times do you see the word *rule* in these verses? _____

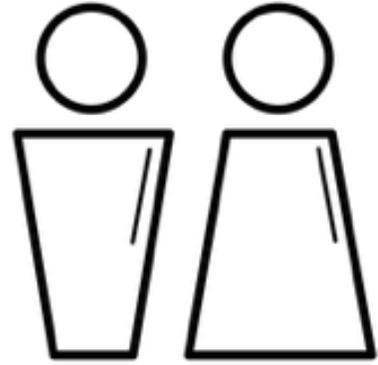
God’s design is for you to represent Him as a ruler over part of His creation. A ruler (leader, overseer) pays attention to and takes care of what he or she is ruling over. Even though God may not be asking you to rule currently over an area that He created, He has given you a body, a book bag, and perhaps a bedroom.

3. What are three ways you could improve how you are currently ruling over what God has given you? _____

THURSDAY: Designed as a Man or Woman

Genesis 1 and 2 clearly state that God designed each of us to be either a man or a woman. He didn't create a third option, and God knew what He was doing when He designed us.

Part of the reason for so much gender confusion and discord today is that some people think that if the genders are different, then one gender must be better or more important than the other. That idea is simply not true. Neither gender is superior in purpose or value.



Another reason for gender confusion is stereotypes. A stereotype is an oversimplification of what someone is like. To say that all men would rather watch football than carry on a deep, meaningful conversation is a stereotype. Not all men would rather watch football, and some who would rather watch football would also enjoy deep conversation. When it comes to what humans like or don't like, stereotypes don't often fit. That's because humans are complex creations. However, God did wisely design men and women to be different from each other not only in their bodies but also in their purpose. Both men and women uniquely represent God's glory.

God designed men to be action oriented. But this characteristic is not a stereotype. While some men are passive, that is not by God's design. Leaders move in a direction. Being action oriented, they can be good or bad depending on whether the leader is living for himself and using others or living for God and serving others.

According to Genesis 2:18, God designed women to be a "helper who is just right for [man]." The word *helper* might sound like something a parent would say to a young child—"you are Mommy's little helper." But that is *not* what God is saying in Genesis 2. According to Chrystie Cole in *Biblical Femininity*, the term *ezer kenegdo* (translated "helper") means to provide what is lacking as you help another toward accomplishing a goal. An *ezer* brings strength, empowering others to achieve things that might otherwise have been impossible. Everything about what it means to be a woman is essential and valuable.¹

While different in their purpose, men and woman share some common characteristics. For instance, God created both genders to be in a relationship.

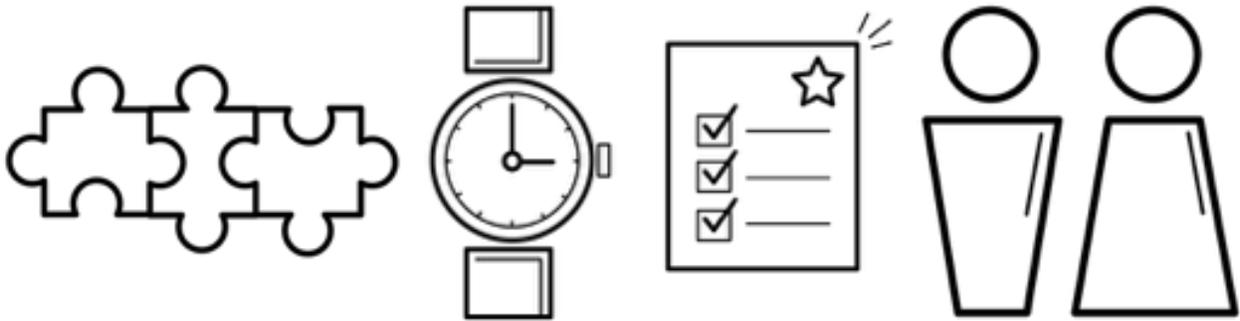
1. According to Deuteronomy 6:5, who should be the primary love of a person's life? _____

Our primary relationship in life should be with God Himself. But God also designed us to be connected to others. For many, this connection comes through marriage. Marriage (and all that goes with it) is a good gift from God, but it's not the ultimate end or source of happiness.

2. How is God's design for man and woman different from what our society says about them?

1. Chrystie Cole, *Biblical Femininity*, rev. ed. (Greenville: Ambassador International, 2015), 22–25.

FRIDAY: Connection Reflection



1. Looking back on this week, what is something you have learned or thought about in a new way? _____

The thought that God is the one who made you and makes decisions about your purpose can be scary at first. But once you begin to understand who God is and learn what He is like from the Bible, those fears turn into comfort and confidence. He is *exactly* who you would want directing your life and making decisions for your future because He is the one who is great and good.

2. What, from God’s Word, do you know to be true about God? (*Hint: Think about what we’ve been learning the last few weeks.*) _____

3. How important is God to you right now? _____

4. Who is the person in your life who helps you see what the God of the Bible is like? _____

