

# DEAL BREAKERS

## 1. Monkey's Uncle?

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Genesis 1

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

- Genesis 1 is written in the Genre of 'Ancient Near Eastern Creation Story', rather than literal scientific explanation. It's about Who, not How. But take a few moments to discuss what each person thinks about the origins of humanity. Do we ever feel a tension between science and faith? If so, when and why?
- Genesis 2.7 '*God formed a man from the dust of the ground*'. The Bible hints at God creating humanity from earthy, natural, unprepossessing raw materials, before breathing in His divine, ethereal essence. In what ways does this complement the story of Evolution that science tells us? Where is the Bible's emphasis – physical creation or spiritual indwelling?
- There's a strong emphasis in Genesis 1 about men and women taking care of God's creation. Do you think the church has neglected this environmental message? How can we fulfil our God given purpose to care for the planet?
- v27. '*the image of God*'. Genesis takes the language of idol creation and uses it to express something profound about the value and wonder of every single human being. Do you find it difficult to think of yourself as bearing the image of God? What difference would it make if you consciously chose to see the image of God in all others, regardless of sex, race, personality and status?
- The early church father, Irenaeus, said that, "The Glory of God is a man fully alive!" How can we demonstrate the image of the living God more fully? What things right now are distorting the image of God in you?

Big Idea: 'The Creation Story is not about the Past, it's about the Present. It's not about How things happened, it's about Who we are.'

Pray for a new revelation of the image of God in you. Pray for a fresh compassion and love for others, and the ability to see the image of God in them – especially those you find challenging. Take a couple of moments to name a friend, colleague or neighbour that is outside of faith. Pray that they will experience a reconnection with their Creator. Pray for Grace and wisdom to share with them the Good News of who God is and who He's made them.