



Sermon-based Guide for Reflection and Discussion

Week of
March 6

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-28 and Psalm 8:1-9

Sermon Title: *“Dominion Power”*

Power exists. It is real. God’s power created the universe and sustains it to this day. God chose to share that power with us by creating us in his image and giving us “dominion” over the creation. Both Genesis 1 and Psalm 8 speak to God’s call for us to take dominion.

Of course, dominion is not a word that sits well with us, for it conjures up images of strip mines and clear-cut forests, or authoritarian politicians or “domineering” husbands. But that is not the way God defines dominion. In Genesis, dominion is linked by God to fruitfulness which necessitates nurture.

If we think of “stewardship” rather than a worldly definition of “dominion,” we get a greater sense of that which God has called us to. Everything we do, we do under the authority of God, which means we do not act on our own authority. And when we think about how we exercise this out of being created in God’s likeness, we see that this is a call to a sacrificial sort of power, one in which giving is greater than receiving, one in which the needs of others take greater priority than our own needs and wants.

Questions:

1. How do you react to the word “power”?
How would you define it from a worldly perspective?
How would you define it for an understanding about God?
2. Read Genesis 1:26-28 together as a group.
What does it mean that humankind was created in the image of God?
What does that mean for our understanding of God and how we understand ourselves and other “image-bearers”?
3. What do you think God means when he gives humans “dominion” over creation?
What metaphors that come to mind (rulers, shepherds, generals, or farmers) to describe this?
4. If we are created in God’s image and God has dominion over us, how does that define our dominion over others?
5. Read what Colossians 1:15-20 says about Jesus.
As you read this definition of Jesus, who is both the Son of God and the Son of Man, what type of dominion power do you think Jesus has and demonstrates?