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## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Made for Good - Christian Lindbeck

1/15/23

#### Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- What is your earliest memory to the creation story from Genesis? (A picture book as a kid, something from a TV show, something a parent told you... etc)

#### Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying:**
- Read Genesis 1:26 - 28; 2:21 - 25
- Read John 15:5-8
- According to these passages, what are our purposes as created beings? Make a list of all the things you see.
- In the Genesis passage (v28), God blesses and speaks to the newly-created humankind. How do we hear God's words to humanity here (for instance, as a command, as a blessing, as an opportunity, ...)?
  - Why do you think we hear it that way?
- These passages describe at least 3 ways we live in our bodies for the Lord, in fruitfulness, through stewardship, and by reflecting the image of God.
  - What does it mean to "be fruitful" in Genesis? In John?
  - What does it mean to steward (rule and subdue) the world in Genesis?
  - List all the ways the Scripture affirms both men and women are made in the image of God.

#### Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- Have you experienced a time when you or someone you know was living fruitfully, as is someone attached to "the vine"? What did that look like?
  - How are the ways this gets expressed in marriage and singleness similar?



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- How are the ways this gets expressed in marriage and singleness different?
- One of the commands of the Genesis passage is for us to rule over the earth (subdue it, have dominion over it, depending on the translation).
  - If stewardship of this world (ruling and subduing) is essentially expressing God's good reign in the world, why are our bodies central to this?
- In Genesis (v26) God proposes making humankind "in our image and according to our likeness."
  - How would you explain to someone what it means that all people are made in the image of God?
  - In your life, what has shaped your understanding of the image of God?

#### Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- In our modern world where we have a wide range of careers and are at different places in life (single, married, kids/no kids, retired, student, etc.) What can it look like to be fruitful and multiply?
  - Same question but what does it look like to "subdue and rule the earth"?
  - Same question but what does it look like to "Image the invisible God"?
- These passages and the last two Sunday sermons have described God's purpose for our embodied souls. Have reading these passages and hearing these sermons impacted how you see and understand your embodied soul?
- How can we live out God's good work this week?

#### Time of Prayer