**Focus:** God creates man and woman in his image and likeness

1. **Quick Review:**
   1. One goal: Tell the story
      1. Kerygma:
         1. The Goodness of Creation
         2. Sin and its Consequences
         3. God’s Response to Sin
         4. Our Response to God
   2. Key verse: *“I am not ashamed of the Gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith”* (Romans 1:16).
2. **This week and next: Part One: The Goodness of Creation**
   1. Worldview of Genesis:
      1. One God, who is really good.
         1. Elohim (God) and YHWH (LORD) (Gen. 1:1… and Gen. 2:4…)
      2. He creates everything out of nothing, freely, effortlessly, because he loves
      3. Everything he creates is good and has a purpose.
      4. Highlight of creation: human person - Genesis 1:26-27
         1. Created in God’s own image and likeness:
            1. Able to represent God on earth
            2. Commissioned to exercise dominion
            3. Capacity for reason and critical thinking.
         2. Humans are free.
            1. Freedom vs. Lawlessness
            2. Animals are slaves to instinct; humans can choose otherwise
            3. Purpose of freedom? **Love.**
         3. *“Male and female he created them.”*
            1. Equal, but different
            2. *Ezer*: “suitable partner”? (Genesis 2:18)
            3. Need in our world: healthy men and women side-by-side
      5. Genesis 1:29-30: *“I have given you…”*
         1. We are creatures, dependent beings. We need.
         2. God provides for us. He cares for his creatures.
         3. Nothing dies in Paradise. Death was not part of the plan.
      6. Genesis 2:1-3: He rested on the seventh day.
         1. Made in his image and likeness. We are created to enter into his rest.
         2. We have a need for leisure.

**Reflection Questions and homework:**

1. Do you understand that you have incredible value to God, that you matter to him?
2. Do you believe that God is good?
3. **Read 2 Peter 1:3-4**