



SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Identity is received before it is performed.

Genesis 1:26–27

1-DAY PLAN

WELCOME

This is not spiritual homework.

If you came here after listening to Episode 1, take a breath. This guide is not another place where you must perform, prove yourself, or feel evaluated.

Some of you read Scripture every day. Some are opening a Bible again after a long time. Some are still figuring out what you believe about Christianity. Wherever you are in that process, you are welcome here.

The goal is simple: slow down long enough for Scripture to speak a truer word over your life than the algorithm, résumé, family system, group chat, wound, or applause. A lot is competing to tell us who we are. This is an invitation to listen again for the voice of God.

Together, we will practice the rhythm introduced in the episode: Pause. Name. Receive. Resist. Practice.

Not perfectly. Intentionally. One faithful step at a time.

IF YOU ARE STILL EXPLORING FAITH

You do not have to fake certainty. Read honestly. Ask questions. Notice what the text says, what it challenges, and what it makes you hope could be true. You can pray: “God, if You are there, help me understand what is true here.”

CHOOSE A PACE YOU CAN SUSTAIN

1-DAY EXPERIENCE

Complete Day 1. Start where Episode 1 starts: Genesis 1:26–27. Read, reflect, pray, and take one quiet action.

A focused day is not failure. Consistency matters more than perfection. If you want to continue, return to this passage tomorrow or move into the longer plan. If you miss a day, come back without turning grace into a grading system.

KEEP THE EPISODE GOING

Don't let the conversation end here. Take two more steps as you continue engaging the episode:

 **Share Your Experience.** After completing the episode and this reading plan, take a few minutes to complete the **Post-Episode Survey**. Your feedback helps us understand how *Intensional* is connecting Scripture, faith, and everyday life. **Survey:** <https://bit.ly/3TEYmZI>

 **Carry the Truth with You.** Each episode includes an original song created to help the episode's Scripture and central truth stay with you beyond the conversation. Listen again, add it to your rotation, and notice which lyric keeps coming back to you. Episode one has two songs

- **No Audition:** <https://bit.ly/4yeCPVX>
- **We Belong Right Here:** <https://bit.ly/3VN0If0>

WHY THIS CONVERSATION MATTERS

Episode 1 begins with a pressure many young adults know well: being visible without feeling known. You can be recognized at school, work, church, online, or in your community and still feel as if your value depends on keeping everyone impressed. Genesis 1 pushes back on that economy of performance: before humanity produces anything, God gives humanity dignity, representation, and vocation.

That matters in Black, Afro-Latino/a, and Latina/o contexts, where identity can carry several layers at once: family, language, culture, church, neighborhood, achievement, migration stories, racialized expectations, and the need to read the room. The goal is not to flatten those layers. It is to ask which voice gets final authority to name you.

BIG IDEA: Identity is received from God before it is achieved, performed, posted, or validated.

THEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT: FROM DIGNITY TO DISCIPLESHIP

1. Creation gives dignity: humanity is made in God's image (Genesis 1).
2. God knows the person beneath the profile (Psalm 139).
3. Christ does not offer a better mask; He renews the person (Colossians 3).
4. Image-bearing changes how we treat other image-bearers (James 3).
5. The Spirit forms believers into Christlike people over time (2 Corinthians 3).

REAL-WORLD PRESSURE POINTS

THE FEED When metrics, attention, or comparison start acting like a mirror for your worth.	THE FAMILY SYSTEM When gratitude, honor, or sacrifice quietly turn into debt, guilt, or fear of disappointing people.
THE ROOM When code-switching moves from wise communication into shrinking, fragmentation, or hiding.	THE HIDDEN LIFE When public excellence grows while private presence, prayer, rest, or relationships starve.

START WITH WHAT GOD SAYS

LECTIO DIVINA ON DAY 1

Read slowly. Reflect honestly. Pray simply. Act concretely. The goal is not to rush through verses; it is to let the Word address your actual life.

CORE PASSAGE: GENESIS 1:26–27

Genesis does not begin with your mistakes. It begins with God.

Before Israel has a law, temple, king, nation, résumé, or platform, God speaks humanity into being and makes human beings in His image. In the ancient world, image language often carried royal associations. Genesis radically widens that dignity: not only rulers and the powerful, but all human beings, male and female, bear God's image.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Image means dignity: your worth is not created by public attention.
- Image means representation: human beings are made to reflect God's character in the world.
- Image means vocation: dignity comes with responsibility, stewardship, service, creativity, and justice.
- The order matters: identity comes before activity; belonging before achievement; gift before performance.
- Sin distorts the reflection without erasing the Creator-given dignity of human beings.
- Christ is not a cosmetic edit to the old self. Christians confess that Jesus redeems, restores, and renews.

EPIISODE LANGUAGE TO REMEMBER

"Being watched is not the same as being known. Being liked is not the same as being loved. Being followed is not the same as being formed."

Before You Perform, You Bear God's Image**Genesis 1:26–27**

THEME: Imago Dei: dignity, representation, and vocation

Start with what God says before the world says anything.

Genesis opens with God as Creator. Before humanity has a résumé, platform, paycheck, failure, or following, human beings receive an identity and a calling: they are made in God's image.

Imago Dei is the Latin phrase Christians use for "the image of God." It means human beings are creatures made to reflect God's character and represent His wise rule in the world. It does not mean that we are God or little gods.

That gives every person real dignity and real responsibility. Your worth is not created by applause, appearance, productivity, ethnicity, relationship status, grades, income, or online attention. Those things may matter, but none of them gets to create your worth.

Genesis also undercuts human superiority. No race, class, nationality, ability level, or social status receives extra image-of-God points. Sin, our rebellion against God and the damage it produces, distorts the way we live as image-bearers, but it never gives us permission to dehumanize anyone.

MEMORY ANCHOR

"So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God." (Genesis 1:27, CSB)

DATA-INFORMED INSIGHT

Pew Research Center's 2025 national survey found that 80% of U.S. adults ages 18–29 say they ever use Instagram. That does not prove Instagram causes identity insecurity. It does show that highly visible, profile-centered digital spaces are a familiar part of life for many young adults, the kind of environment where the question "Who gets to name me?" becomes practical.

SOURCE NOTE: Pew Research Center, "Social Media Fact Sheet," November 20, 2025. Survey of 5,022 U.S. adults conducted Feb. 5–June 18, 2025.

DAY
1

Before You Perform, You Bear God's Image

Genesis 1:26–27

THEME: Imago Dei: dignity, representation, and vocation

ENGAGE THE TEXT

<p>REFLECT</p> <p>What have you been asking to give you the worth God already gave you, achievement, attention, appearance, family approval, usefulness, or success?</p>	<p>DISCUSS</p> <p>Where do people your age feel the most pressure to “prove” they matter? How does Genesis 1 challenge that pressure without dismissing ambition, excellence, or cultural responsibility?</p>
<p>PRACTICE</p> <p>Before you open social media today, put both feet on the floor. If you trust Jesus, say: “Before I perform, I bear God’s image. In Christ, God is renewing me.” Then do one meaningful thing nobody online needs to know about.</p>	<p>PRAY</p> <p>Creator God, teach me to receive my life from You before I perform it for anybody else. Expose the voices I have allowed to speak louder than You about who I am. Give me humility as a creature and courage as an image-bearer. Amen.</p>

NEXT STEP

Memory suggestion: Genesis 1:27. Weekly challenge: one hidden act of faithfulness each day.

EPISODE CONNECTION

Episode 1 asks, “If God has already given us an identity, why are we working so hard to manufacture one?” Future episodes will test that foundation against family approval, romantic attention, money, and unfinished growth.

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RECEIVE. RESIST. PRACTICE.

You are not just a profile pic. Live from the truth God has spoken, then take the next faithful step.