

## 1. Why We Give

- a. Why: Why are we here?
    1. God made us for a purpose (Genesis 1:1-31 [Creation Account])
      - a. Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
      - b. Genesis 1:3: "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."
      - c. Genesis 1:20-21: "And God said, 'Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.' So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves..."
      - d. Genesis 1:26-27: "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.' So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."
      - e. Genesis 1:31: "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."
      - f. Other Relevant Scriptural Verses
        - i. Psalm 19:1: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."
        - ii. Isaiah 45:18: "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): 'I am the Lord, and there is no other.'"
        - iii. John 1:3: "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."
        - iv. Colossians 1:16: "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible..."
    2. Made in the Image of God
      - a. Hebrew Term for "Image"
        - i. Demut: Active Verb, "To be like", "To act like", "To resemble"
        - ii. Tselem: Noun, "Statues, Models, Images" (Understood as a representative of something; not the same as 'equal' to the something, but just a representative)
      - b. Verbal for "Image": The Disco Globe
        - i. We "reflect" the character and nature of God in our actions and behaviors
      - c. Noun for "Image": We Represent God (Example: Statue of Liberty represents or symbolizes 'Freedom')
  - b. What: What are we supposed to do?
    - i. Our purpose is defined by the mission (The Big Task)
      1. Defined by the Creation Mandate in Genesis 1:26-28
        - a. Reflect & Represent God
        - b. Multiply & Fill the Earth
        - c. Bear the Responsibility for all of creation (most often interpreted as 'Dominion')
      2. Humanity Takes A Detour: The Apple Incident (Genesis 3:1-6)
        - a. Despite the fact that humanity brought sin into the human experience, the work of humanity is still blessed by God to "GO"
- c. How: How will we do it?
  - i. We accomplish the goal through the Church Mission at St Gabriel's



## Reference and Backup Materials: Module 1

1. To Bear the Redemptive Image of Christ to a Broken World
  - a. Created in the Image of God with a clear purpose to fulfill the Big Task
    - i. Followed up by Matthew 28:19-20 & Acts 1:8 (The Filling of the Holy Spirit)
  - b. Bring the Message of the Big Task to the World through the work of Christ—the Savior
    - i. Jesus is the God-Man, repairing the damage of sin and restoring us through the work of his life, death, and resurrection
    - ii. We are called to reflect and represent God in the right now—in our world—empowered by the Spirit
    - iii. There is an active dynamism to this work
    - iv. The Church (the people of God) are the means to accomplish this Big Task
      1. Time
      2. Talent
      3. Treasures