

PARENT GUIDE

JOURNEY

Lesson 2.1: Paradise

WITNESSES

► SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1

SUMMARY:

Paradise. As God spoke the world into existence, He did so flawlessly—creating an absolute paradise for humanity. And when it came to humanity, He created us to bear His image (Genesis 1:27, 31). So everything perfect and beautiful about God was to be reflected through us. This is actually where it all begins. It begins with what God desires of His creation and most of all, what He desires of us.

And yes, things went all wrong. The stain of sin masked God's beautiful creation. Enter Jesus. God incarnate would be humanity perfectly designed and He would instruct us to be perfect (Matthew 5:48). Be just like the Father—perfect.

But how is this possible when sin has eliminated the possibility of perfection? It is only because of Jesus and through Jesus that such beauty is even possible. This is the gospel. It is the story of God's image in man, tainted and veiled by sin, but revealed in glory through Christ. The command to be perfect is a command to make God's future kingdom a present reality.

► DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- How do you imagine God's original design for the world? What should the world be like?
- What makes our world so far from that original design?
- What is your reaction to knowing the way it should be versus the way it is?
- Tell me your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?

► CORE VERSE

Matthew 5:48

► CORE CONCEPTS

God's design for creation was goodness, beauty, and perfection.

Perfect: Reached or completed a goal as intended