

## "Living the Dream"

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Dr. Joe Scruggs, Senior Pastor

The Epic Story is God taking something really wonderful that had "come from together" and going to incredible lengths to put it back together.

Choosing the \_\_\_\_\_ is a major decision  
The starting point: a quantum leap (Genesis 1:26-27)

### MANKIND WAS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

- \_\_\_\_\_ from the rest of the universe
- There is a unique \_\_\_\_\_
- Our basic relationship is focused \_\_\_\_\_
- To live "the dream", we need to function according to \_\_\_\_\_ pattern.

God is a personal, relational God (John 17:24). If God is relational and we are created in his image, Godly relationships would be a key part of living the dream.

### FOUR CORE RELATIONSHIPS

- 1.) Living the Dream begins with being \_\_\_\_\_.  
Genesis 2:7; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:3-4
- 2.) Living the Dream involves godly relationships with \_\_\_\_\_.  
Genesis 2:25
  - There were no secrets, but there was safety
- 3.) Living the dream involves our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.  
- being at peace with who we are.
  - "How do I know I'm valuable?"
  - My core basis for worth is that I am created in the image of God.
- 4.) Living the dream involves a purposeful and cooperative relationship with the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Genesis 1:26
  - There was fulfillment in caring for the things God had entrusted to them.

### COMMONALITIES

- All of these involve \_\_\_\_\_
- That's not where we are - we've lost something

### THE DREAM ACTUALLY HAPPENED AT ONE TIME ...

- These people were living in the \_\_\_\_\_ as God wanted
- The image of God within them was \_\_\_\_\_
- They were able to live in harmony with the life God had \_\_\_\_\_ for them, and that was good.
- It was \_\_\_\_\_ "dream"
- Genesis 1:31 - *God saw all that He had made, and it was **very good**. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*

### ... AND IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN

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### EPIC SERIES OVERVIEW

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to look at our world and realize that something has gone wrong. How did it get this bad? And how do we find our way out of this mess? In the weeks leading up to Easter we'll explore the epic story of a good creation gone bad and the price God paid to bring it back to Him. Over the next few weeks we'll tell that story in three chapters by walking together through the Old Testament in order to see what went wrong, what that means for us today, and what God has done to set things right.

#### EPIC: In the Beginning...

2/13: The Foundation

**2/20: Living The Dream**

2/27: Broken by our Own Evil Choices

#### EPIC: Broken By Evil

3/6: Our Broken Relationship with God

3/13: Our Broken Relationship with Ourselves

3/20: Our Broken Relationship with Each Other

3/27: Our Broken Relationship with the World

#### EPIC: The Great Rescue

4/3: Abraham, the Patriarchs, and the Exodus

4/10: The Judges, the Kings, and the Exile

4/17: The Life, Ministry, and Death of Jesus (Palm Sunday)

4/24: The Resurrection of the Son of God (Easter Sunday)

## Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

*Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.*

- As we looked at the end of Genesis 1 today, Joe described some of his thoughts about how we are “created in God’s image”. What is your initial reaction when you consider that? Have you ever spent any time thinking about what that truly implies? What characteristic can you now infer about your Creator?
- When you think about “living the dream” in Tulsa, before this morning’s sermon, how would you have described that? Compare the dream of most Americans in 2011 to “living the dream” that God intends for us all. What dream are you choosing to pursue today?
- Why do you think God had you here today? What do you need to take away from this sermon? What steps do you need to take to apply this to your life today?

**Some next steps:** Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

- Set aside some time this week to pray specifically that God would reveal Himself to you through scripture then carefully read Genesis chapter 2. Read it as if this is totally new information. Keep a blank sheet of paper with you and, as you read, ask yourself the question “What do these verses show me about who God is and what He is like?”
- Spend some of your time with God asking Him to show you when you have chosen to pursue a dream that was not His dream. Ask Him to give you clarity on how to order your life to follow His dream.
- Honestly evaluate the four key relationships discussed this morning: 1.) with God 2.) with family and friends 3.) with yourself and 4.) with the larger community. In which areas do you need to concentrate your energy to improve today?



SERMON NOTES