



Rooted: The Best Of The Best | October 9, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Do you know what the God of the universe says about you? Do you know what he says about the person that you pass walking down the street? How would knowing that, believing that, and living into that change your life? If you want to hear more, read below.

Key Verses

Genesis 1:1-2, 27, 31 (NIV)

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Discussion

The first chapter of the Bible says that God was present at the beginning. And not only did he exist at the beginning, but he created as well. In the presence of the dark, formless chaos of the world, God created everything that exists in this world using the power of his mighty voice. Our God is creative, strong, and powerful. He speaks and "it is." And for six days, our God created everything we see, from the grass to the oceans. He simply spoke them into existence. And after he created, he called it all "tov," which means "good."

1. What amazes you about the way God created? What do you find hard to believe?
2. Why do you think it's significant that God created using only the power of his voice?

When God created human beings, however, he created us in his image. And because of that, he saves a name for us that's even greater than "tov." He says that we are the "crown of his creation." And regardless of how we feel about ourselves on any given day, God says that we are "tov meod." We are the best of the best, of the very, very best that God has ever made. Regardless of the situation in which you find yourself, regardless of your past, regardless of the lies you believe, God says that you are "tov meod."

3. Would you describe yourself as the crown of God's creation? Why or why not?
4. What prevents you from believing that *you* are the best of the best, of the very, very best?

The best part about the fact that we are called "tov meod," is that it's a fact, and not a feeling. You are declared by the mighty voice of God to be the best of the best, of the very, very best. And it's not in comparison to anyone else around you. Both the person that you can't stand as well as your best friend are called "tov meod" by God. It's true about all human beings. In the Bible, we read that everything that's ever existed was created through God. Not a single thing came into existence without him. And of all those things, he says that we are the very best.

5. Why do you think being made in God's image makes us "tov meod?" What is different about us that makes us even greater than the mountains and oceans?
6. How does it make you feel that the person you can't stand is also called "tov meod?" How does it change the way you view yourself?

What's Next?

What would change about the way we view ourselves as well as the way we view the people we pass on the street if we really believed and embodied this truth – that God calls us the best of the best, of the very, very best? We don't have to measure up, and we don't have to compare ourselves to our neighbor. It's simply a fact – we are "tov meod."

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, think about how you view yourself as God's creation. Do you hear him say that you are the best of the best, of the very, very best? Look closer at something seemingly simple, like your fingerprints. They were created uniquely, just for you. They are proof that you weren't designed by random chance. You were created by the God of the universe who puts beautiful intention and purpose behind everything he does – *and he declares you tov meod.*