# *GOSPEL MONOPOLY*

1. **START AT “GO”**

**HVC, Jan. 5, 2020**

**Genesis 1:1,26-28,31 (NIV)**

**Psalm 139:13-14, 14:1a (NLT)**

[Note: Make sure to hit the final three application questions.]

When is the last time you played Monopoly?

On a scale of 1 (least) to 10 (most), how much do you enjoy the game?

Why do you think it has such universal appeal?

***Genesis 1:1 (NIV)***

***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***

Have you felt a tension between scripture and science in your own experience/thinking?

How confident are you that it was really God who created the universe? What questions bother you about that idea?

Go through Genesis 1 & list all the things you learn about what God is like. Which of these attributes are most meaningful to you? (e.g. His power, wisdom, goodness, beauty…)

What do you appreciate most about God’s creation?

How does it make you feel when you consider that none of this even had to be?

What was your reaction to the quotations from various scientists that Frank cited?

Did you come away from this message more – or less – confident in God? What, in particular, spoke to you in this message?

If we were the only creatures in the whole universe made in God’s image, how would you feel about that?

Do *you* feel “at home” in the universe? Why/not?

***Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV)***

***Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”***

***So God created mankind in his own image,***

***in the image of God he created them;***

***male and female he created them.***

***God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”***

[Note from Andy: Don’t get bogged down in the shift to plural “us.” For various reasons, it’s probably not a reference to the Trinity.]

What do you find comforting about knowing you are made in the image of God? Encouraging/ strengthening?

Do you think the mandate to increase still applies today with such a burgeoning world population?

How much do you worry that we will somehow “run out” of resources? How does this passage speak to that concern?

How does your “job” look different knowing that it is part of this command from God … to know that you are continuing God’s creative activity into the world?

***Genesis 1:31a (NIV)***

***God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.***

How do *you* feel about the material world? Your own body? Sensory pleasure? How could you glorify God more in this area in coming weeks?

How hard do you find it to believe that you are “very good” in God’s eyes?

***Psalm 139:13–14 (NLT)***

***You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body***

***and knit me together in my mother’s womb.***

***Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!***

***Your workmanship is marvelous — how well I know it.***

How hard is it for you to believe that when you in the womb, God was “knitting you together”?

Do you think science has added to, or diminished, the mystery of our development in the womb?

When was the last time you praised God for how He made you?!

If we denigrate ourselves, whether internally or to others, what are we saying to GOD?!

Why do you think self-hatred is so attractive, so hard for people to give up?

Do you agree that people tend to move away from the created world when they think of “spirituality”? What do you think of the idea that a 70 year old man riding a surfboard, or a 10 year old boy eating & enjoying an apple, could be just as “spiritual” as someone who is praying? What confuses you about that?

[Note from Andy: In the Bible, “spiritual” does not mean non-physical, but rather *of or from the Holy Spirit*.]

Tish Harrison Warren says that we tend to err in two directions:

a. We ***ignore the body*** *in favor of a*

*disembodied, spirits-floating-on-clouds spirituality.*

Where do you see evidence of this in our culture?

b. *… we are* ***obsessed with bodies****, focusing all*

*our attention on policing sexual conduct & denigrating the body as a dirty source of evil.*

Where do you see evidence of this in the church?

**Dan Sullivan -** *Except for your unique capability to be you, other people are better at everything else!*

How does this quote comfort you?

Challenge you?

Confused you?

***Psalm 14:1a (NLT)***

***Only fools say in their hearts,***

***“There is no God.”***

Does this sound fair to you, or harsh? Why?

What do you think the word “fool” *means* here?

Do you think it is foolish to deny God’s existence? Why?

**APPLICATION:** What difference does it make for you that the gospel begins, not with sin, but with what God is like and how He values us?

How might this help you in “holy conversations” with others?

What else in this message gave you new insight into how to communicate this message to our culture today?