

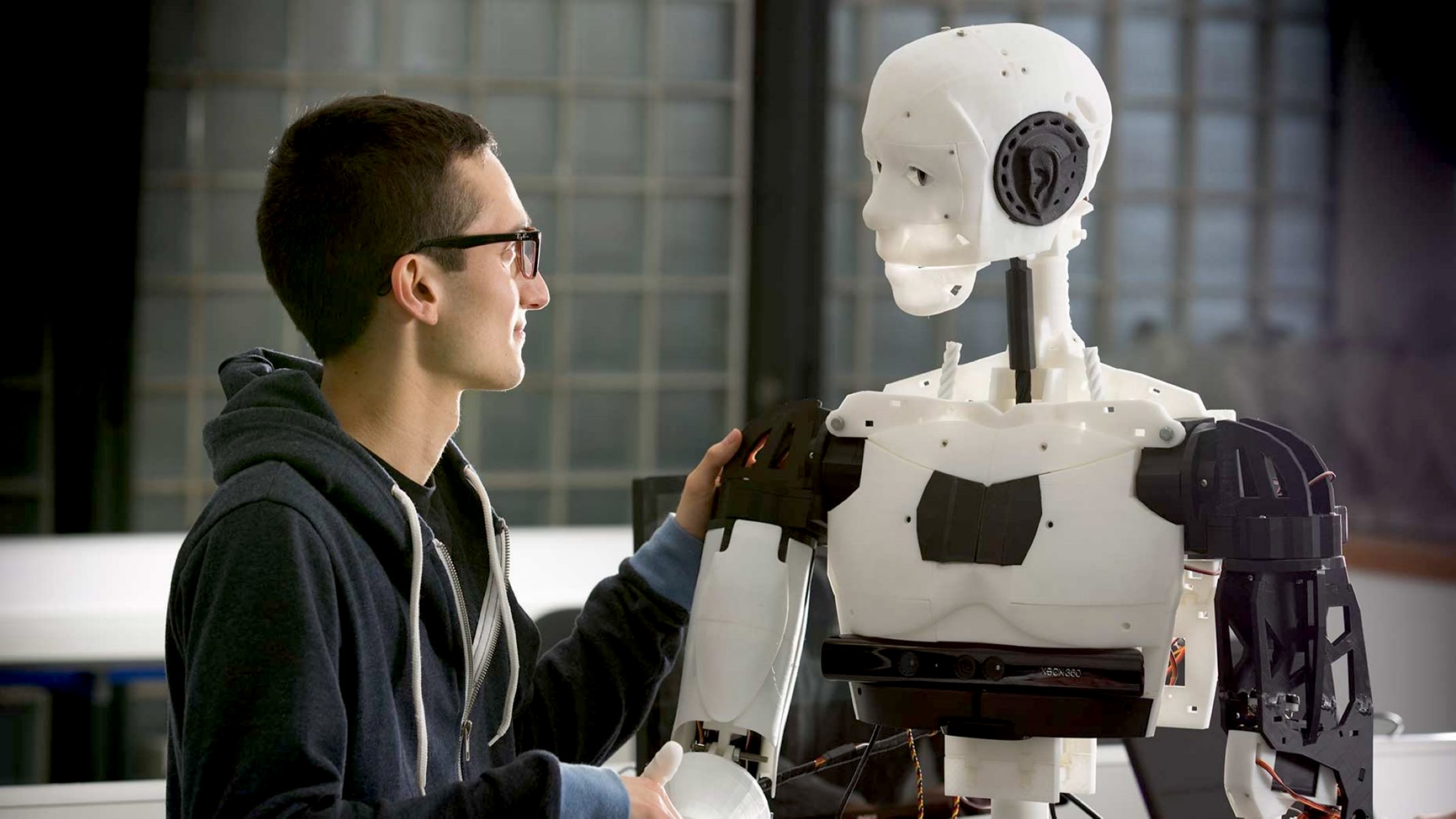
more than you can
IMAGINE

A Place in
God's Story



John 3:16

For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall
not perish but have eternal life.



To be loved is to
be chosen.

John Ortberg

To be loved means to be chosen. The sense of being chosen is one of the very best gifts love bestows on the beloved. It means someone has seen me as a unique person, and that someone desires to come closer to me, to be on the same side as I'm on.

(Love Beyond Reason)

John Ortberg

... On the other hand, there is no pain quite like the pain of not being chosen. The day I'm writing this a ten-year-old has written to Dear Abby about the pain of life on the playground: "All my life I have been chosen last. That's my problem. ... Why don't they just hang a sign on me that says, 'Reject. Last one to pick gets me.'" There is no gift

(Love Beyond Reason)

John Ortberg

like being chosen, no pain like rejection. And when a reject is chosen by someone, a life gets changed.

... Love confers a kind of chosenness on the one who is loved. Love whispers, *I choose you. I want to be on your side.* And for ragged people, for people with misshapen spirits and crooked hearts and lopsided souls, this is life.

(Love Beyond Reason)







Old Testament Reading cont.
 Exodus 12:1-3, 6-11 (ESV)

"Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. "And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. "In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover."



Lausanne,
 Switzerland

Manilla,
 Philippines

Seoul,
 South Korea

Cape Town 2010

THE THIRD CONGRESS
 OF WORLD EVANGELIZATION





Luke 1:5-7



Luke 1:26-31



Luke 1:26-31



Luke 1:26-31



Luke 1:26-31





Matthew 2:1-2

Ephesians 1:11-13

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.



The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” The angel of the LORD also said to her: “You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. (Genesis 16:10-11)



Have you ever felt like
you don't belong in
God's story?

C. S. Lewis

You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.

(Surprised by Joy)

C. S. Lewis

I did not then see what is now the most shining and obvious thing; the Divine humility which will accept a convert even on such terms. The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape?

(Surprised by Joy)

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.