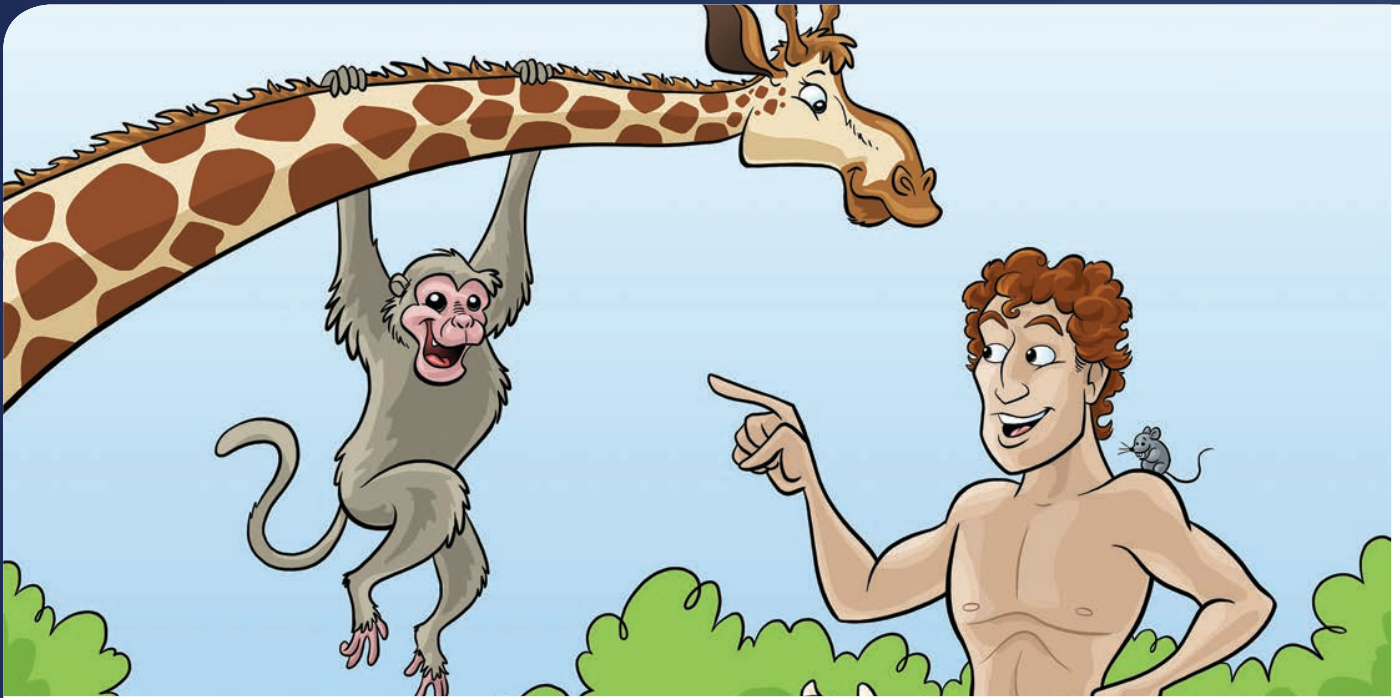




LESSON 2

God creates man and woman

GENESIS 1:26-31; 2:7-24



God created man in His own image.



“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Gen 1:27).

Supporting Truths

1. Man is extremely different from the other creations of God.
2. Man is made to glorify God by reflecting His image.
3. God specially made man as the best of His creation.
4. Being made in God’s image, man was made to know God, rule for God, and obey God.
5. God made marriage to help man do the job God created him to do.

Objectives

1. State that only humans—no animals—are made in God’s image.
2. Define what it means to be made in God’s image.
3. Describe how God created man in a different way than the rest of creation.
4. Explain three unique purposes for man as one who reflects God’s own nature.
5. Define marriage, as well as the role of the man and the woman in marriage.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates man and woman • Genesis 1:26–31; 2:7–24

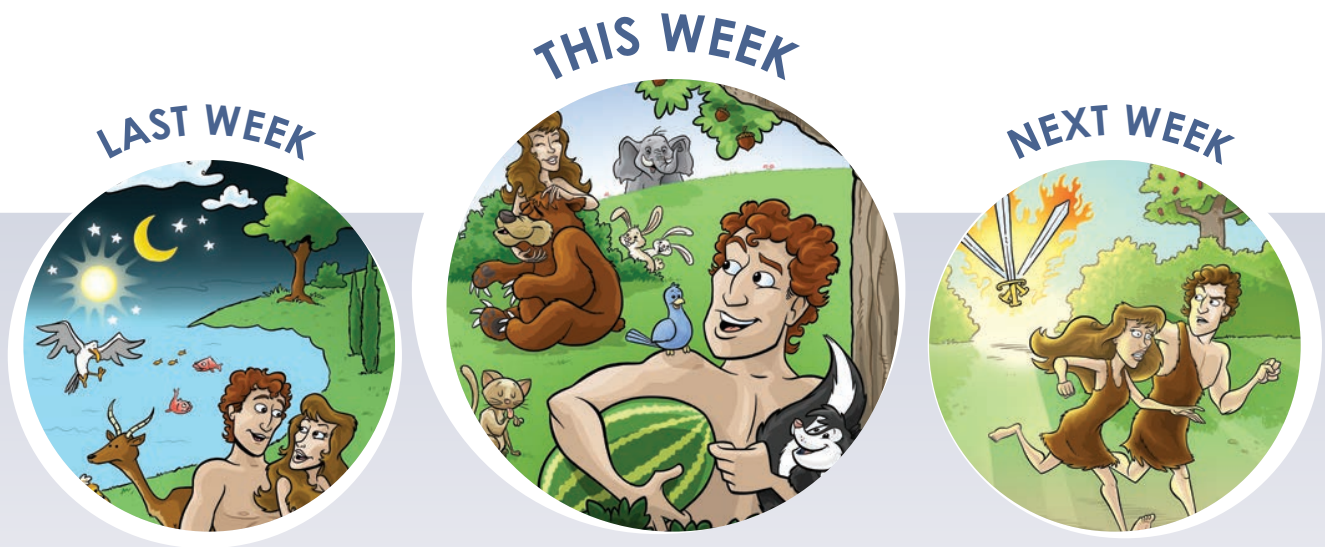


Lesson Summary

God created man to be a living illustration of His glory. By divine design man was made in God's image, with the ability to know God, rule over creation for God, and obey God. Man was to display God's image in the jobs God gave him to do: (1) to cultivate the garden and (2) to obey God's command to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God provided man with everything he needed to do his job, including a woman as his helper.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Man was created in God's image in order to glorify and enjoy God in three ways: we are to know God personally, rule for God, and obey God. God even created marriage to help us do these things. But because of sin, we can't know, serve, or obey God as we should. Jesus is the only man who lived exactly as man was designed to live, and those who trust Jesus are made new creations in Jesus in order to live with God just as God originally intended.



**God creates the heavens
and the earth**
Genesis 1:1–2:3

**God creates man
and woman**
Genesis 1:26–31; 2:7–24

Man rebels against God
Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–24

CREATION

FALL

Lesson Commentary

God created man in His own image.

Man is the high point of God's creation. In fact, God's creation of man is so important that the story is repeated twice. First, in Genesis 1, man is presented as the climax of the creation account. Only after the creation of man on day six did God declare His creation to be "very good" (1:31). Second, in Genesis 2, God's intimate involvement in the creation of man is described. God hand-made man from the dust of the ground and gave him life by breathing into his nostrils (2:7). In both stories, we see that man was uniquely created to display God's glory—he was to be an image of God for all creation to see.



THINK ABOUT IT

Both man and woman are made in God's image (Gen 1:27).

God created man as His best creation (1:26–31)

God showed man was special to Him by making him differently. God created everything else by saying,

"Let there be," but when He made man it was much more personal. God said: "Let Us make man." Not only that, but man alone of all creation is made in the image of God (1:26). Man is not God—he is distinct from God—but man is like a picture or copy that represents God.

God created man to be a living illustration of His glory. Like the moon reflecting the light of the sun, man was created to reflect the glory of God to the world. God created man in His own image so that the essence of who He is—His goodness, holiness, wisdom, and power—would be displayed for the whole creation to see through the thoughts, words, and actions of man.

Genesis 1 makes clear several specific characteristics of what it means to be made in God's image. First, God is relational, as indicated by the plural pronouns "Us" and "Our" in Genesis 1:26 and made clearer in the New Testament (Matt 28:19). Like God, man

was created to be relational. He was made to know God and to live in a relationship with the Triune God (John 17:21). This relationship between God and man becomes the theme of the Bible: How can mankind after Adam's sin have a relationship with a holy God?

Second, God is creator, and as creator, He rules over His creation as king. God also gave man power and authority to rule over creation (Gen 1:28). But man is not God, so man does not rule over creation in the same way that God does. Man is a **steward**, a person who takes care of his master's things for him. He depends upon God's power and authority. All that man needs to live he receives as a gracious gift from God (1:29). Like Adam, each of us will be held accountable to God for how well we use creation to display God's glory.

Third, God's good creation shows that God is good. Therefore, man is also to be good. Man is a moral being, created by God to understand right and wrong. God Himself is the standard of what is right and wrong, and we reflect God's character when we choose to think, speak, and act in ways that match God's standards of right and wrong. This is one way man was created to be different from the animals. Unlike animals, which are never said to be righteous or sinful, we are commanded to be holy, or separate from sin, because the LORD our God is holy (Lev 19:2). We most accurately reflect God when we most attentively obey His standards of right and wrong.

God prepared man to do the job He created him to do (2:7–24)

In Genesis 1:28 God gave man a job—he was to rule over creation. In the next chapter, God applied man's original job of ruling over creation specifically to the garden. Adam's job was to cultivate and keep the garden (2:15). As he worked, man was to demonstrate obedience to God by not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:16–17). Taking care of the garden was an important job, and God made sure that Adam had all the resources he needed to complete his job.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates man and woman • Genesis 1:26–31; 2:7–24



First, God took special care in the creation of man. God fashioned man from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him. He shaped man just right to do the job He gave him.



THINK ABOUT IT

From the very beginning God has provided for all our needs.

Second, God provided for all of Adam's physical needs. He gave Adam a home in the garden and provided every kind of tree for food (2:8–9).

Third, God created a helper for Adam. Adam had started to do his job, caring for the garden by first naming the animals (2:19). But man was alone, and God said that this was not good. It was at this time that God revealed His plan to make a helper for man (2:18).

God formed all the animals and birds out of the ground and brought them to the man to name them (2:19). But among all the animals and birds there was not found a helper suitable for Adam (2:20). So God used one of Adam's ribs to create a woman for Adam (2:21–22). Unlike the animals, the woman was perfect for man. She was the right match for man, having also been created in God's image (1:27). When the first man saw how good God's design was, he expressed his thankfulness in a love poem, the first words of man ever recorded (2:23).



THINK ABOUT IT

The ultimate purpose of marriage is to show God's love, not man's.

A special relationship between man and woman was established that day. They were united together in **marriage**—the joining together of one man and one woman for life (2:24).

This relationship was

created by God to be a picture that shows Christ's love for His bride, the church (Eph 5:25). Today, many people try to change marriage to be something different. But if it is not one man and one woman joined together by God

for life, it is not marriage and does not please God. When marriage is twisted and destroyed, both man and woman are crippled in their efforts to do what God created them to do: To know Him personally, to rule over creation, and to live in obedience.

Despite all the resources God gave man to do his job, none of us, not even Adam, has perfectly fulfilled our job. Through sin, which is any thought, word, or action that turns away from God's standards of right and wrong, the image of God within us has been spoiled. Only one man, Jesus Christ, has perfectly completed the job God gave Him to do.

Jesus is the only one who has perfectly worshiped God, perfectly ruled over creation for God's glory, and remained perfectly holy in obedience to God. Only Jesus can represent us before God, substituting His perfect obedience for our disobedience. He is the second Adam (1 Cor 15:45). All who trust Him are represented by Him before God (Rom 5:19). Also, they are given His own righteous life so that they can once again live out their calling as creatures specially made in the image of God.

Lesson Outline

God created man in His own image.

AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. God made man in His image (1:26–27).
2. God gave man a job to do (1:28; 2:15).
3. God made a woman to help the man (2:18–24).

AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. God created man as His best creation (1:26–31).

- God did not say “Let there be man,” but “Let us make man in our image” (1:26).
- God created man in His own image (1:27).
- God created man to rule over the rest of creation (1:26, 28).
- God gave man all the plants for food (1:29).

- Now that man had been created, God said His creation was very good (1:31).

2. God prepared mankind to do the job He created him to do (2:7–24).

- God formed man out of dust and breathed life into him (2:7).
- God put man in a beautiful garden (2:8–9).
- God gave man two commands: take care of the garden and not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:15–17).
- God created woman to help man complete the mission God had given him (2:18–24).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates man and woman • Genesis 1:26–31; 2:7–24



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who made man and woman?**
God made man and woman.
- 2. How are man and woman different from everything else God made?**
Only humans were created in the image of God.
- 3. Who created marriage?**
God created marriage.
- 4. What did God think of man and woman after He made them?**
He thought they were very good.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. How can you tell man and woman are the best of God's creation?**
Only humans were created in the image of God, and only after God made them did He see that creation was very good.
- 2. What does it mean to be made in God's image?**
Being made in God's image means being made like God, kind of like a portrait shows a little bit what a person is like.
- 3. Can you tell from Genesis 1 what God is like? How is man like God?**
Man is personal like God is, so man can have a relationship with God. Man rules over creation, kind of like God is the supreme ruler. Man was made to do what's right, kind of like God is perfectly good.
- 4. What responsibilities did God give man and woman?**
Man and woman were supposed to be stewards, taking care of God's creation like good rulers. They were to fill and rule the earth.
- 5. Did God create man in the same way He created everything else?**
No. Instead of speaking man into existence, God formed him out of dust and breathed life into him.
- 6. What job did God give Adam in the garden?**
Adam was supposed to cultivate and keep the garden and obey God's commands. This shows that he is supposed to display God's image by being a steward and doing what is right.
- 7. Why did God create woman?**
Like man, woman was made in God's image to glorify God. But she was supposed to do this by being a fit helper for man. Man needed a helper, and none of the animals were fit for him, because they were not in God's image.
- 8. What is marriage?**
Genesis 2 shows that marriage is one man and one woman joined together by God for life. The man leads and loves his wife. The wife helps and loves her husband.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

AFTER THEIR KIND

Give each child a sticker (or picture) of a person, a bird, a fish, or land animal. Tell the children to come up front when the picture you hold up is the same kind of animal they have. Use this activity to explain that the animals were created “after their kind,” and man was created “in God’s image.” Next, ask questions such as “Did fish come from a dog?” “Did a man come from a monkey?” Tell the class that in today’s lesson, they are going to see how God made a helper for Adam “according to his kind.”

MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE

Ask the children to create faces using Play-Doh. Explain that the pancake faces are made in the children’s image and represent them (both have face, eyes, nose, etc.)



ILLUSTRATE

NAMING THE ANIMALS

When Adam named the animals, he did not find a suitable helper for himself. Hold up pictures of some animals with funny or interesting names, such as an aardvark, armadillo, chameleon, hyena, llama, orangutan, ostrich, penguin, platypus, newt, or walrus. Test the children to see if they can name the animals. Conclude by noting that none of these animals was a suitable helper for Adam.

GOD MADE ME

God made Adam and Eve, and God made us too. Talk about the different parts of our bodies, and thank God for making us so special. First, ask the children to close their eyes and then open them. “Let’s thank God for eyes that can see.” Ask the children to hop, kick, and turn around with their legs. “Let’s thank God for our legs that can run and jump.” Continue with ears and arms. “Thank You, God, for creating me.”



APPLY

MADE FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND

See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Blue paper, cups, school glue, water, paint brushes, and sand

Directions: Copy craft page onto blue paper (or cardstock); give each child a copy. Have children use a glue stick to cover the inside of the man image and then help them sprinkle sand over the glue to create a dust man. For easy cleanup, line tables with butcher paper or newspaper before starting the craft.



Made from the Dust of the Ground
See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God creates man and woman • Genesis 1:26–31; 2:7–24



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

“CLAYTIONARY” REVIEW

Pass out clay or Play-Doh to each child. Show a picture of an animal to one child and have him make the animal in clay/Play-Doh. Have the rest of the children guess what the animal is and which day of creation it was made on. Review with the children what God made on all six days of creation. In today’s lesson, we are going to see how God made Adam and Eve.

MADE FOR A PURPOSE

Bring in any number of different things and talk about their purposes (what they were made for). Some examples: a Frisbee, spoon, or water bottle. Show the class the first item and ask, what’s the Frisbee for? What if I tried using it as a wheel for my car? Ask the class what a spoon is used for. What if I tried using it as a shovel to dig a big hole? What’s the water bottle for? What if I tried using it as a Frisbee? Explain that when we use something the wrong way, it doesn’t work. It gets damaged, and a lot of times it damages other things too. There’s a word we use to describe what something is made for. That word is *purpose*. In today’s lesson we’re going to learn about God’s purpose for man and woman.



ILLUSTRATE

REFLECTING GOD’S IMAGE

Hold up a mirror. Have different children look into the mirror and ask them to describe to the class what they see. Explain to the class that God made man in His image, something like a reflection of Him. When God looks at us, He should see a picture of Himself in us. Tell the children that God commanded man to rule the earth. This is one way that man reflects God’s image by ruling over the plants and animals like Him.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE?

Find the number of the earth’s population. During the lesson ask the children whether they know how many people live on the planet. Write the number on a blackboard or poster board. Briefly explain that all the people in the world came from one man and one woman whom God created.



APPLY

RIGHTLY REFLECTING ON CREATION

See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Copies of craft page (two per child), aluminum foil, glue, and scissors.

Directions: Pass out two mirror patterns to each child. Instruct children to cut around the outside and inside of the mirror frame, along the solid black lines. Younger children may need assistance starting the inside cut of the mirror pattern. Direct children to cut aluminum foil squares slightly larger than the inside of the mirror (or you can have these precut). Insert the aluminum foil between the two mirror patterns, and glue the papers together to fasten the aluminum foil in place with glue. Read Psalm 139:14a to the class. Use this craft to discuss the importance of praising God for creating us in His image.



Rightly Reflecting on Creation
See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*.

AGES 9–11



BABY NAMES

Say the names of different animals. Ask children to give the names of their babies. Explain that each baby animal was made like its parent (after their “kind”). Explain that in today’s lesson they will learn that man was not made like the animals. Man was made in the image of God. For example:

- Bear - cub
- Pig - piglet
- Deer - fawn
- Kangaroo - joey
- Goat - kid, billy
- Goose - gosling
- Frog - tadpole, polliwog
- Cheetah - cub
- Alligator - hatchling

HANGMAN

Read Genesis 1:26 as a class. Make the appropriate number of blanks for the number of words in the verse on the chalk board or marker board. Choose children one at a time to fill in blank spaces with the missing words. Explain that today, they will learn the truth about how life began.



MIRROR, MIRROR

Pull out a mirror during the lesson. Have different children look into the mirror and ask them several questions: “What is the most amazing thing about the human body?” “What things could we learn about God by looking at how He made man?” “Why do you think God made you?” Explain that we can learn a lot about God by looking at our body because we’re made in His image.

SIGNIFICANT REPETITIONS

As you read through Genesis 1:26–31 with the class, instruct the children to listen for three repeated words. Write the words on the board as a reminder.

1. Image or likeness (1:26, 27).
2. Make/made or created (1:26, 27, 31).
3. All or every (1:26, 28, 29, 30).



ILLUMINATING THE IMAGE OF GOD

Study other Bible verses that discuss the image of God. Assign children to look up the verses listed below. Ask the children questions about each verse, and discuss the meaning of the passages together.

Genesis 9:6: Why is the murder of human beings wrong? (Man was made in God’s image.)

Romans 8:29: What did God predestine believers for? (To be conformed to the image of His Son.)

Colossians 3:10: How is the new man renewed in knowledge? (According to the image of Him who created him.)

James 3:9: Why is it wrong to curse men with our tongues? (Men have been made in the likeness of God.)