

The Creation

Passages: Gen 1–2

Memory Verse

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31a)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. 2. The creation of man was different from the rest of creation.	God is good, and His creation is good.	Always give thanks for what God has created.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. God Is Our Creator
- B. The Days of Creation
- C. The Creation of Man
- D. The Day of Rest

Life Application

- 1. Giving Thanks to God for His Creation
- 2. Living as the Image of God

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Everything that God created was made in preparation for us. We have been made in His image, so we are precious in the eyes of God. Let us always remember this special status and give thanks to our Creator in heaven.

Spiritual Teachings

A. God Is Our Creator

By looking at God's creation, we are able to understand that God is our Creator. When we are able to fully appreciate the extent of His creation, including ourselves, we will experience awe and respect. Here are some amazing facts about the world that God has created.

1. There are 1 trillion trees on earth, which is more than the number of stars in the Milky Way galaxy.
2. 85 percent of plant life is found in the ocean.
3. For every human, there are 200 million insects.
4. Tarantulas can survive two and a half years without food.
5. There are over 60,000 miles of blood vessels in the average person.

There are so many wonders in nature. As we learn about God's creation, we can appreciate the amount of thought and love that He put into the world around us. In the Book of Job, God asks Job a series of questions: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, who determined its measurements? [...] Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb?" (Job 38:4–5, 8). The entire chapter reveals God's great acts of creation. God measured the amount of water in the oceans and the seas. He carved out the valleys and made the highest mountains. He placed each animal in its specific habitat. God created the natural world with His authority and sovereignty.

As human beings, our understanding of God's creation is very limited. There are many areas of the ocean that we have yet to explore, and even today, scientists are discovering new species of plants and animals. However, what is most amazing is not what God has just created, but that He created all of these things for us to enjoy. We are God's most precious creation, so while studying the days of creation recorded in the Bible, we can remember and reflect on how important we are in the eyes of God.

B. The Days of Creation

Before Creation (Gen 1:1)

Before the days of creation, "God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1). The earth was without form and void. This means that there was no order, no life, and no light. However, "the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (Gen 1:2). The word "hovering" in Hebrew also has the meaning of a bird incubating her egg (cf. Deut 32:11). In the same way, God was waiting and preparing to create our world.

Day 1 – Light (Gen 1:3–5)

"Let there be light." By saying these few words, God created light. He divided the light from the darkness, and named the light "day," and the darkness "night." Without a sun, we do not know how long these days were at first, but together, they became the foundation of our days: morning and evening. "So the evening and the morning were the first day" (v. 5). Each of the rest of the days of creation would also be defined by this "morning" and "evening."

Day 2 – Firmament (Gen 1:6–8)

Again, God commanded with His words, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters" (v. 6). A firmament simply means a space or expanse. However, it is

different from the sky that we imagine; in the original language, it is thought of as something solid that separates the waters below from the waters above.

Day 3 – Land, Seas, and Vegetation (Gen 1:9–13)

On the third day, God continued with the command: “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear” (v. 9). He then named the dry land “earth” and the waters that were gathered together, “seas.” After creating dry land and the seas, God saw that what He had created was good. Then He proceeded to create vegetation through His words, saying, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind” (v. 11). God saw the vegetation that He had created was good.

Day 4 – Sun, Moon, and Stars (Gen 1:14–19)

“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night” (v. 14). On the fourth day, God made the “greater light,” known as the sun, the “lesser light,” known as the moon, and the stars. The sun would shine light during the day and the moon and stars would light the night. Apart from lighting the sky, the sun, moon, and stars are also a way for us to tell the seasons and time. After creating them, God saw that what He had made was good.

Interestingly, for the first three days of creation, God spoke parts of creation into existence. However, for the fourth day, the Bible mentions that God, in addition to speaking, also “made” things (Gen 1:16). This was the first time that this verb was used during the process of creation. Though we are unsure of why this verb did not appear until now, this word could signal a different phase in creation, which we will look into more closely later.

Day 5 – Fish and Birds (Gen 1:20–23)

“Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth [...]. So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves” (vv. 20–21). On the fifth day, God created the fish to fill the sea and birds to fill the skies. Again, we can see that apart from using His words, God also “created” these different animals. Each was created according to their kind. To be created “according to their kind” means that many different species were created, and each had an order to them. After creating these different animals, God also blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply (v. 22).

Day 6 – Land Animals and Mankind (Gen 1:24–31)

On the sixth day, God created all the land animals and man. “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind’; and it was so” (v. 24). Similar to the fifth day, God used His words and “made” the land animals according to each kind. Today, we can see that there are different species of animals, just as the Bible mentions.

C. The Creation of Man

In addition to the land animals, God also created man on the sixth day. “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [...].’ So God created man in His own image” (Gen 1:26–27). However, the process of creating mankind was much more complex. “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Gen 2:7). Thus, God created the first man, named Adam. This is significantly different from the rest of the days of creation. From the action of molding or “forming,” we can see that God put greater effort into creating man. The breath of life is also important because humans were the only beings to receive

this breath from God. It is also interesting to note that man was the last thing to be created. In this way, we can see that the previous days of creation were all in preparation for the creation of man. This is the special status that mankind has in God’s eyes.

Apart from being created through the hands of God, God created man differently because we were created in His image. So, what does it mean to be created in the image of God?

- Ephesians 4:24 tells us that the image of God is righteousness and holiness. Like God, we have a sense of right and wrong, a conscience. This is different from the rest of God’s creation, which cannot discern from right and wrong.
- Colossians 1:15 tells us that Jesus Christ is the image of our invisible God. As we look at Jesus Christ, we are able to see what it means to be the image of God. Jesus Christ was a man with feelings and emotions. He lived in this world and experienced the same difficulties that we experience; the only difference is that He was blameless and perfect in every way. When we follow in the example of Jesus Christ, then we are also living out the image of God.

After Adam was created, God saw that there was no “helper comparable to him” (Gen 2:20). As a result, God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He then took one of his ribs and made it into a woman. When God brought the woman to Adam, Adam saw her and knew that she was a part of him. Through the creation of woman, God also established marriage.

At the end of these six days, God saw that all that He had created was very good. If we look at the days of creation as a whole, we can view the days as pairs.

Pair 1	Day 1: Light	Day 4: Sun, moon, and stars
Pair 2	Day 2: Firmament	Day 5: Fish and birds
Pair 3	Day 3: Land, seas, vegetation	Day 6: Land animals and man

The first pair, days one and four, are related to light and how light shines on to the earth. The second pair is related to the creation of the sky and seas and the inhabitants of those regions. The third and last pair is related to land, including vegetation for land animals and man to reside on and consume. From these pairs we can see that the sequence of creation had an order, and that God did not just create randomly. There was a purpose to each creation.

Did you know?

The second day of creation was the only day when God didn’t call His creation “good” – the day He made water, which resulted in the great flood.

D. The Day of Rest

After creating the world for six days, God ended His work on the seventh day and rested (Gen 2:2). Not only did He rest from His work on the seventh day, but He also blessed and sanctified the seventh day. This was the creation of the Sabbath day, which we still enjoy today. When He gave Moses the Ten Commandments, God reminded Moses that we should remember the Sabbath day because God rested after six days of creation (Ex 20:8–11).

Check for Understanding

1. List the days of creation in order.

- Day 1 – Light (Genesis 1:3–5)
- Day 2 – Firmament (Genesis 1:6–8)
- Day 3 – Land, seas, and vegetation (Genesis 1:9–13)
- Day 4 – Sun, moon, and stars (Genesis 1:14–19)
- Day 5 – Fish and birds (Genesis 1:20–23)
- Day 6 – Land animals and man (Genesis 1:24–31)

2. How are the days of creation paired? Days 1 & 4; Days 2 & 5; Days 3 & 6

3. How was the process of creating man different from the rest of creation? Man was molded from the dust of the earth and then God breathed life into his nostrils. No other creation was made in this way.

4. What does it mean for man to be created in the image of God? We are created in the image of God’s holiness and righteousness. We have a conscience and are able to live out the image of God when we follow Jesus’ example.

5. After six days of creation, what did God do on the seventh day? After six days of creation, God rested and then blessed and sanctified the seventh day.

6. According to Exodus 20:11, what is the reason we keep the Sabbath? According to Exodus 20:11, we keep the Sabbath as a way to remember the creation of God and to praise Him for His creation.

Life Application

1. Giving Thanks to God for His Creation

Though we know that God has created everything around us, we often forget to praise and thank Him for it. Through thinking about these different parts of God’s creation, we can gain an appreciation of how much we have been given. It is not only our belongings but also the environment that we live in that has been wonderfully planned by God. How can we remember to appreciate God’s creation?

For each day of creation, discuss the following:

- Imagine if you lived in a world without....
- What do you think life would be like?
- How does having this impact your life?

Imagine if you lived in a world without...	What do you think life would be like?	How does having this impact your life?
(1) Light		
(2) Firmament		
(3) Land, seas, and vegetation		
(4) Sun, moon, and stars		
(5) Fish and birds		

(6) Land animals and man		
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2. Living as the Image of God

From God’s creation process, we know that man was made in the image of God, which means we reflect God’s love, holiness, and righteousness. However, what does that look like in our daily life? Let us take some time to think about what it means to live in the image of God.

Scenario 1

Shawn has always been pretty bad at math, and his math grade has suffered as a result. Though he spends hours doing his homework, the formulas just won’t stick in his brain. One day, a close friend messages him, telling him that he has found the answer key to an upcoming math test and wants to share it with him. This offer is very tempting to Shawn because a good result on this test would really bump up his overall grade in the class. At the same time, he knows that looking at the answer key is wrong and against the teachings of God.

Discussion Questions

- a. What should Shawn do?
- b. How should Shawn live as the image of God in this situation?

Scenario 2

Jenny was the new kid at school, and she desperately wanted to fit in. She was so relieved when Brianna, her lab partner in biology class, was willing to introduce her to her group of friends. Brianna and her friends were very welcoming to Jenny. However, after hanging out with them for some time, Jenny realized that they swore constantly. In the beginning, she was alarmed by how often they swore, but as the weeks and months passed by, Jenny began to swear just like them. She would justify this to herself, saying, “What’s the big deal? They are just words anyways.”

Discussion Questions

- a. What should Jenny do?
- b. How should Jenny live as the image of God in this situation?

Scenario 3

Sarah thought Mrs. Nelson was the worst teacher ever. During class, she would often humiliate students who didn’t know the answer and was often rude to students who asked questions. She showed favoritism to students who “sucked up” to her. On her tests, she would have questions on topics she never covered in class, and some of the questions were so ambiguous because they were worded so badly. Sarah didn’t know anyone in her class who actually liked Mrs. Nelson. One day, her classmates were whispering during lunch time saying that they were going to vandalize Mrs. Nelson’s car as a prank after school. Hearing this, Sarah knew this was wrong, but at the same time she thought in her heart, “Well, Mrs. Nelson had this coming. A harmless prank won’t hurt anyone.”

Discussion Questions

- a. What should Sarah do?
- b. How should Sarah live as the image of God in this situation?

Memory Verse

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31a)

Meaning

1. God views His creation as something good. In the same way, we should also value what God has created.
2. God made everything with a purpose and intention. Nothing was created in vain.

Conclusion

By studying the days of creation and the creation of mankind, we can understand the importance of being thankful for all that God has prepared for us. God has complete authority and sovereignty, and He demonstrated this during the six days of creation. Not only did He create this beautiful world that we live in today, but He also established the Sabbath, a day for us to rest and give thanks for His creation. Most importantly, though, everything that He created was made in preparation for the last being that He created: man. We have been made in His image, so we are precious in the eyes of God. Let us always remember this special status and give thanks to our Creator in heaven.

Lesson 2 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. “[A]nd that you put on the _____ man which was _____ according to _____, in true _____ and _____.” (Ephesians 4:24)
new, created, God, righteousness, holiness.
2. In what ways are we made in God’s image?
In His holiness and righteousness. Also, when we follow the example of Jesus Christ, we are living out the image of God.
3. What pairs can we see in God’s creation? What do these teach us about His creation?
Day 1 (Light) & 4 (Sun, moon, and stars); Day 2 (Firmament) & 5 (Fish and birds); Day 3 (Land, seas, vegetation) & 6 (Land animals and mankind). These pairs teach us that God did not just create randomly. There was a purpose to each creation.
4. Share a time when you struggled to reflect God’s image. How can you improve in the future?
Personal answers.
5. What parts of God’s creation are you most thankful for? Write a letter to Him by finishing the sentences below:
Personal answers.

Dear God, thank You so much for _____.
I appreciate this creation of Yours, because _____

Sincerely, _____.