

LESSON 2

GOD CREATES ANIMALS AND MAN

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Origin of All Species

The Bible tells us the origin of all species: God. "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" (Gen 1:24). The Bible also tells us that man was created in the image of God, different from all the other creatures of the earth (Gen 1:26-27). In Genesis 1:28, man was given dominion over all the other creatures that God created—man did not evolve from them. This clearly refutes the theory of evolution.

God's Sovereign Purpose for Us

"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:4-6)

We need to constantly teach our students that we are created as a holy people who will glorify Him. Additionally, we must remember that God created us for more than one purpose.

1. So that we will be a holy people who would glorify Him.
(Eph 1:4-6)
2. So that we will love Him most of all.
(Mk 12:30)
3. So that we will love each other as He has loved us.
(Jn 15:12-14; Mk 12:31a)
4. So that we will know and abide in Him.
(Jn 15:4)
5. So that we will do His will.
(Jn 6:38; Rom 8:28-29)
6. So that we understand the truth and preach His Word.
(Mk 1:38; Isa 43:12b-13)

BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 1:20-2:25

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. God created man in His own likeness.
2. We are very special in God's eyes.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize that God is a loving God through His provision for humankind in His act of creation.
2. To be able to articulate the order of creation from the fifth to sixth day.
3. To understand that God created us, and that we are special to Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

(Genesis 1:27)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord, we come again to worship You and to learn more about You. Please let us understand how every one of us is special to You, for You created us in Your own image. Let us all learn to take care of Your creations and be responsible citizens of Your kingdom. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

At this age, your students may understand that they came from their mothers and fathers, yet they probably cannot grasp that God makes their existence possible. Help them understand that although they physically came from their mothers, it was God that first made them and God that continues to make them grow. Also, explain that every one of them was made in God's likeness, so keeping themselves holy is important.

A very important lesson that children should learn from the story of creation is that God created man to be the caretaker of His creations. We were created for a purpose.

God entrusted us with the very important responsibility of taking care of earth. We are the rulers of earth according to God, and yet the question remains—have we been responsible rulers of earth? Although God gave man dominion over the creatures of the earth, it does not mean that we can abuse the earth and all the natural resources and creatures in it. It is important that we start educating our children to be responsible world citizens at a young age. We need to take good care of our earth and all the creatures and resources in it because God created it for us out of love.

VOCABULARY

- create:** to make something out of nothing
- increase:** to make greater, as in number, size, strength, or quality
- surround:** to enclose on all sides; encompass
- purpose:** the reason for which something exists or is done, made, used, etc.

REVIEW

Distribute the unfinished "Little Book of Creation" project from the previous lesson to the students.

Use the book and ask the students if they still remember what they learned last week.

1. What was it like in the beginning?

It was complete darkness and there were no animals or plants. Only God was there.

2. What did God create on the first, second, third and fourth day?

1st day: Light

2nd day: Sky/heaven

3rd day: Seas, land, and plants

4th day: Sun, moon, and stars.

Optional Bible Story Materials/Preparation: Pictures of marine life, birds, and animals

BIBLE STORY

Day Five: The Fish and the Birds

After God created all those things, He was ready to continue. He hadn't made His most important creation yet. So on the fifth day, God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." On this day, God made all the fish of the sea and all the birds of the air. He made many, many different kinds of birds and fish. Can you name some? What is your favorite bird or fish? [You may show them pictures of marine life and birds, and ask them if they can name them.] What makes birds special? (They can fly.) Can you think of any Bible stories that mention birds? (E.g., Noah sent birds to look for dry land and Elijah was fed by ravens.) What makes fish special? (They can breathe

underwater.) Can you think of any Bible stories that mention fish? (E.g., Jonah was swallowed by a big fish; a child brought five loaves of bread and two small fish to Jesus and His disciples.)

God saw that all the fish and the birds were good. He blessed them and told them to increase and fill the earth.

Day Six I. Animals

On the sixth day, 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." So on this day, God made all kinds of animals: big ones, little ones, fast ones, slow ones—each one unique. Can you name some animals? [You may also show them

pictures of animals and ask if they can name them.] What is your favorite animal? How many of you have pets? [Ask for a show of hands.] What kinds of pets do you have at home? What are some of the things that animals can do? (Bark, sing, run, dig, swim, climb, etc.) How are animals useful to humans? (They serve as food, help farm the land, are kept as pets, etc.) Can you imagine what it would be like if there were no animals in the world? God saw that all the animals He made were good.

II. God Creates the First Man

So far, God created light, the sky, the seas, land, and plants, and the sun, moon, and stars. He also created all kinds of fish, birds, and animals. Why do you think God created all these things before He made man? He prepared these things with love, so that man could have a beautiful place in which to live.

Now the world was finally ready for something very special. In fact, it was the most important part of God's creation. Can you guess what God was going to create next? [Allow students to respond.] That's right, God was going to create humans! So God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Do you know what it means to be made in God's image? How many of you think you look like your mom or dad? [Ask for a show of hands.] That means that you have your mother or father's image. As children of God, we have been created in God's image. What do you think God's image looks like? Is He tall or short, big or small, fat or thin? Is God's image something that we can see with our eyes? No. God is a Spirit, a holy Spirit. As His children, we are made in His image when we become holy and remain holy. God created man out of the dust of the ground and breathed life into him. Then man became a living being. We can see that our life comes from God. God gave man power over all the fish, birds and animals, and He gave him all the plants with fruit as food to eat. God gave him all of these things to enjoy, and man's job was to take care of all of these things. How do you take care of the things God has given you? [Ask students to share their ideas.]

III. God Creates the First Woman

The first man's name was Adam. Although Adam had all the wonderful animals to take care of and good food to eat, he was all alone on earth. God saw that he needed a helper and companion. Would a dog make a good companion for a man? How about a cat? A fish? A bird? Why or why not? (Animals are good companions, but they cannot talk to man or understand how his mind works.) So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he was asleep, God took one of Adam's ribs and closed up the place from where He took it. Out of the rib, God made a woman, and He brought her to Adam. What was this

woman's name? Her name was Eve. The woman became Adam's wife, and together they took care of all the animals and talked with God.

So on the sixth day, God created man in His own image, male and female. God blessed the man and the woman so that they would be fruitful and have many children. Together, they would rule over the earth. God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.

Day Seven: God Rests

By the seventh day, God had finished creating. God rested on this day, blessing it and making it holy. Why do you think God rested? Was He tired from all the hard work? No, God is an almighty God who does not need rest. He rested so that we could rest from our hard work and worship Him joyfully. We remember this blessing of rest every time we observe the Sabbath. Remember, Sabbath means "rest."

Before God made man, He prepared the world so that everything was just right. He made light so we could see; the sun to make the plants grow; and fruits and vegetables for us to eat. God even made animals for us to take care of and play with. We can see how much God loves us through all of His creations. God made us so that we could help take care of His creations.

We Are Special in God's Eyes and He Loves Us

The Bible is more than a book of salvation or a book of the kingdom. The Bible, which is God's written word, tells us that He made us the way He did for a reason. You may not know exactly why but some day you will understand. But, right now, He just wants us to know that you are very special to Him—no matter how different we are. Just think—the world would be pretty boring if we were all exactly the same, wouldn't it? He knows everything about each one of us and loves us all very much. He made us all different, and He made us all special. Most importantly, we need to show our love to Him by thanking Him for giving us a family and for helping us to grow and learn more about Him. The more we learn about God, the more we should give Him all the glory.

Note: If your older students are ready to learn more about God's sovereign purposes, you can refer to the "Before You Teach" section and explain all the points listed.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. List the things God created from the first to the sixth day.

- 1st – light;
- 2nd – sky;
- 3rd – land, seas, and vegetation;
- 4th – sun, moon, and stars;
- 5th – fish and birds;
- 6th – animals and man.

2. What did God make man out of? The dust of the earth.

3. In whose image did God make man? In His own image.

4. How did man become a living being? God breathed life into him.

5. What was Eve made out of? Adam's rib.

6. Who had authority over the earth and the animals? Humans.

7. What did God do on the seventh day? He rested.

8. Why do you think God made us? What are we doing here?

God made us so that we can take care of His creations. The reasons why we are here on earth are to love one another and to grow and learn more about God. God has a purpose for us: to give Him all the glory.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God
He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27)**

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. We are made in God's holy image.

1. God is holy. Since we have been created in His image, we should also remain holy. What does it mean to be holy? (To be pure in what we see, what we do and what we think.)
2. What are two things that can help you be holy? (Reading the Bible and praying.)
3. Name two things that can keep you from being holy. (Not being obedient to your parents and watching things your parents don't approve of.)
4. Can you think of a Bible character that was considered holy? (Joseph.)
Why was this person holy? (He feared God and kept God's commandments.)
5. Can you think of a person in your life—a family member, a friend, or a church sister or brother—who behaves in a holy manner? How does that person remain holy?

2. Man was given dominion over the earth.

1. God created a beautiful world for us to live in. He also gave us authority over what He created.
Since God gave us this world, we are responsible for it. What are some ways that people hurt the earth and the creatures that God made? (Littering, breaking the laws, not recycling, etc.)
2. How can you take good care of earth's resources? (By not wasting all the resources that God created.)
3. How can you help church take good care of earth's resources? (By saving water, not littering, picking up trash, etc.)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. dust
2. breathed
3. Adam, Eve
4. God's creations
5. good
6. rested
7. False; He created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.
8. False; He created man on the sixth day.
9. True
10. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITIES

1 God Created Me!

Objective: To reinforce the students' knowledge of how much God loved us when He created us.

Materials

- Butcher paper (long enough to fit the length of each child)
- Scissors
- Markers
- Crayons

Instructions

1. Have the students lie down with their arms and legs spread apart on the butcher paper one at a time. Using a thick marker, trace around the student's body.
2. Allow the students to color in the figure of themselves using the crayons using the appropriate colors to represent their eyes, hair, and clothes.
3. When they are finished, cut out the figures and hang them on a wall with their hands touching. On another sheet of paper, print the words "God created [student's name]" above each figure. You can also say this to the students: "God made you and God made me. He gave us our eyes, our ears, everything! He made us alike in some ways, but He made us different in other ways. God created all the people in the world!"

2 Unique and Special

Objective: To reinforce the students' knowledge of how unique and special we are.

Materials

- Stamp pad, watercolors or tempera paint
- Magnifying glasses
- Sponges or wet paper towels
- Blank white paper

Instructions

1. Press each student's index finger on the stamp pad or paint it with the watercolors or tempera paint.
2. Help your students press their fingers onto the construction paper.
3. Let each student look at their fingerprints through a magnifying glass to see the different lines.
4. Talk about how each person's fingerprints are different or the same. Fingerprints have three main types of patterns: arches, loops, and whorls. See if any of the students have the same pattern. Say to the students, "Your fingerprints are very special. No one else in the whole world has fingerprints like yours! Even though God has made many, many people, each one of us is special to Him."

3**Little Book of Creation / Part 2**

Objective: To let the students learn about the days of creation in an interactive way.

Teachers may choose to incorporate this project with the storytelling, or to have the students make it at the end of the lesson.

This book project was started in the previous lesson. Please distribute the books to the students. If any of the students were absent for the previous lesson, the teacher should make a book for the student and the student can complete the first four days at another time.

Materials

- White construction paper; 2 sheets per book
- Markers or colored pencils to decorate the book
- Stapler
- Scissors

To make the book: Fold two sheets of construction paper in half to resemble a book and staple the center. The resulting book will have four physical pages, but eight pages when counted front and back.

Instructions

As you cover the last days of creation, instruct the students to work on their little books according to the following instructions:

- Page 5 – Write: “God created sea creatures/water-related animals and birds.” Decorate the page.
- Page 6 – Write: “God created land-based animals and man.” Decorate the page.
- Back cover – Write: “God blessed the 7th day and rested from all work.”

E1 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 2—God Creates Animals and Man

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truths: 1. God created man in His own likeness.
2. We are very special in God's eyes.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To recognize that God is a loving God through His provision for humankind in His act of creation.
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Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Genesis 1:27)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blanks

(rested Adam Eve good breathed God's creations dust)

1. God created man out of _____.
2. God _____ life into the first human.
3. The first humans that God created were _____ and _____.
4. God created humans so that they could take care of _____.
5. God saw everything that He had made, and it was _____.
6. After completing the work of creation, God _____.

True or False

7. God created the world in seven days. _____
8. God created man on the fifth day. _____
9. God was pleased with His creations. _____

Life Application

10. Imagine what life would be like without the sun, without friends, or without plants and animals. Often, we take the things that surround us for granted, which means we are so used to everything that they don't seem like a big deal. But they are. Our lives would be very different without God's creations. Write about three things that you can do this week to show how grateful you are for God's wonderful creation.
