

GOD CREATED US IN HIS IMAGE

FOUNDATION: GOD IS CREATOR - GOD GIVES LIFE

BIG TRUTH: GOD CREATED US IN HIS IMAGE

Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-2, 9:6; James 3:9

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

BIG IDEAS

- God created us to be like Him.
- God created us to be in relationship with Him.
- God created us to be a reflection of Him for a watching world to see.
- God's decision to create us was very good.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 1:26-31

God is the creator of all things, including mankind. He created man differently than the rest of His creation. When He created man, He created him in His own image. Man is a reflection of God. God's creation of man in His own image reveals His purpose for man, which is to glorify God. When God created man, He saw His creation as very good. When man was first created, he was created perfectly.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS CREATOR—GOD GIVES LIFE

Everything that is and that has ever existed was created by God. All of creation He created from nothing. He created everything for the purpose of bringing glory to His name, and after He created all things, He declared everything He made to be good. Since God is creator, it is He who gives life to all things, including us. Our lives and the purpose for our lives is found in Him.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God is the creator of all things
- All life comes from God



Every child should feel:

- Awe that God made everything out of nothing



Every child should be able to:

- Point out things in their daily lives and acknowledge that they were created by God



Every child should want:

- To trust God their Creator

FAMILY DEVOTION: MAN IS A REFLECTION OF GOD

Man was created differently than the rest of creation. God chose to make man in His own image placing upon him a great responsibility. Man reflects God and, in doing so, he can draw people to God. Man is a reflection of God as he lives and interacts with others.

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God created man in His likeness.

- God created the whole world.
- He made all the animals according to their own kind, and they were all unique.
- When he made man, He made man in His own image.
- This was something special about the way God created humans. All people are created in God's image, or in His likeness.
- This is so we would reflect who God is to the world.

God created man as male and female.

- God did not create one gender.
- God created male and female and both reflect God to the world.
- God uniquely and distinctly created a man and a woman.
- God's creation of Adam and Eve reflects His creation of gender.
- Both boys and girls reflect God to the world because they are both made in God's image.

God created man and woman with a purpose.

- God's creation of man and woman is not without a purpose.
- When God created Adam and Eve, He created them as male and female to completely reflect His image to the world.
- God's purpose for both man and woman is to glorify Him.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 1:26-31*God Created Man*

Supporting Scripture: Genesis 1:1-11; 1 John 4:8; Acts 17:27

Teacher Introduction:

God is the author of all life. He created the heavens and the earth, speaking them into existence and then He chose to create people. He did not speak man into existence like He did the rest of creation. Instead, He chose to make man differently. He chose to use His hands and to fashion man out of the dust of the earth and to make him in His image, to be a reflection of Him. God made man to reflect His own image, but this image was marred by man's sin. God's creation of man was not out of a need for something or because God lacked something. He created man as part of His plan for the world and humanity. He created man to reflect His image to the world and to glorify Him forever.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth: *God Created Man*. The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Genesis 1:26-31 and teach the truth: *God Created Man*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth: *God Created Man*.

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several pictures of yourself to class. Show the children the different pictures of you and ask them to describe how they know the pictures are of you. Help them identify the similarities between you and the pictures of you.

- How do we know these pictures are of me? (They look like me. The person in the pictures has my eyes, my hair, etc.)
- We are made in God's image.
- How do we know we look like God? (We love, we know right from wrong, we are kind, etc.)
- Only man is made in God's image and He wants us to reflect Him to the world around us.

BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED US TO BE LIKE HIM.**Man is created in the image of God.¹**

- People are different from the rest of creation.
- People bear God's likeness; they are a reflection of God.
- This uniqueness sets them apart from the rest of creation.
- It also gives them a unique purpose and responsibility.
- Man is not like an animal. Man was created to be with God and to reflect God.



Lead the children in a discussion of the characteristics of God. Help them list out the fruit of the Spirit, which are some of the characteristics of God that man can reflect. Remind them that God created us to be like Him.

Man has characteristics like God.²

- Man has characteristics like God, but he is not God.
- God created man to be like Him, not to be Him.
- God gave man His own likeness so he might reflect God to the world.
- Man can reason and has morals. Man has relationships and can interact with God.³

Man has authority and a created order given to Him by God.

- Man's right to rule over creation was given to him by God.
- Man also lives with others in a created order that reflects God in His three persons.
- This authority is a reflection of God's own authority over all things.
- Man's authority does not make him equal with God, but it makes him like God.
- He reflects the image of God when he exercises the authority given to him by God.

Who created man? (God created man.)

What did God create man to be like? (He created man to be like Him, to be a reflection of Him.)

1. Genesis 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 11:7: Man was made in the image of God and reflects God to the world. This gives man a unique purpose and responsibility.

2. 1 John 4:8: God is love and anyone who does not love one another does not know God. Man was created to reflect this aspect of God to the world.

3. Galatians 5:22: Man can acquire the fruit of the Spirit which are all characteristics of God, but man will never become God.

BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED US TO BE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.**Man was created male and female for relationship.**

- Man was created first to be in a relationship with God.
- God then created female, so the man could have a companion.
- This marriage relationship is a reflection of God's relationship with His people.
- God created man to have a relationship with Him.⁴

God's desire for a relationship with man reveals God's greater plan.

- God's plan for man is that he glorify God.
- The creation of man was different because God's plan for man was that he glorify God through a relationship.
- All of creation reveals God's glory, yet man is the only part of creation created for a personal relationship with God.
- This "setting apart" is not because of who man is or anything he has done. It is born out of God's desire to glorify Himself through man.

God's desire for relationship reveals man's purpose.

- Man was not created merely to inhabit the earth and care for it.
- He was created with a greater purpose that is more pleasing to God.
- Man's purpose is revealed in God's desire to have a relationship with him.
- Man is created for God, to honor and glorify Him, and, most importantly, to be in a relationship with Him.



Read John 3:16 with the children. Next, help them compare man with the rest of creation. The list can have two columns: one for man and one for creation. Under each column, help the children list out how God created them and how God interacts with them. God is much more intimate and personal with man because He created man for a relationship.

Why was man created? (Man was created to glorify God and enjoy Him by being in a relationship with Him.)

4. Acts 17:27: Throughout scripture we see the idea that God draws man to Him to be with Him. God desires to be known by man and to be in a relationship with Him.

BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED US TO BE A REFLECTION OF HIM FOR A WATCHING WORLD.**Man is created in the image of God to reflect God to the world.**

- Man was created differently than the rest of creation because God desired for man to be His reflection.
- Man reflects God's majesty and His creativity.
- Each person is uniquely made and reflects the intelligence and careful design of God.⁵



Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 with the children. Lead them in a discussion of how we become new creations when we follow Christ. God created man to reflect Him to the world so they would know Christ.

God shows His love for the world through man.

- The way in which people interact with one another is a reflection of God.
- Man reflects God's love when he loves his enemy or someone who is difficult to love.
- Man reflects God's sacrifice when he gives up himself to live for God and others.
- Man is God's unique creation and God uses man to show the world Himself.

Man is created in God's image to reflect His character to the world.

- Man can reflect God's character to the world by seeking to be like Him.
- Man can reflect God's heart to the world as he shares God's great rescue plan.
- God's heart is for man to be like Him and to reflect His character to the world around them.

What is man a reflection of? (He is a reflection of God.)

To whom is man a reflection? (He is a reflection of God to the world.)

5. Colossians 3:10: *We are new creations when we know Jesus and we are made in the image of God.*

BIG IDEA: GOD'S DECISION TO CREATE US WAS VERY GOOD.**God created man and declared him very good.**

- Because God saw the creation of man as good, man was good.
- God created man perfectly in His image and He saw man was very good.
- God chose to breathe life into man and to make him perfect.
- God is the ultimate judge and authority and what He sees as good, is good.



Help the children to know more about the God who created them by singing "The Creation Song" by Sciencesaurus. The lyrics and music can be found by searching it on Google.

God is perfect and wise and everything He does is good.⁶

- God does not make mistakes.
- His creation of man was not a mistake because man sinned.
- God is perfect and good and when He created man, man was very good.
- When man was first created, he reflected this perfect image of God.
- Man's own choice to sin marred the image and shattered the reflection.

God's creation of man was not a mistake.

- Every person has purpose and value.
- Every person is created with great value to glorify God.
- God is perfect; therefore, the creation of man was perfect.
- God chose to create man and to make him in His image.
- God does not make mistakes; therefore, His decision to create man was not a mistake.
- All of God's creation was perfectly created and man was chosen to perfectly reflect the image of God.

How did God view His decision to create man? (He viewed it as very good.)

6. Psalm 100:5: *The Lord is good. He is always good because He is perfect. Everything He does is good.*

HOOKS

**Man Was Created In God's Image**

Have the class compare the rest of creation to man. Bring in the following items or similar items: two different types of balls, such as a football and a basketball and two identical stuffed animals. Make sure the two identical items are truly identical. Help the children compare the items. The balls are both balls, but they are different. The stuffed animals are both stuffed animals and are identical.



- When God created man, He made him in His own image.
- When God created the rest of the world, He didn't do this.
- Man is the only one made to look like God, like the stuffed animals are the same.
- The rest of creation is like the balls. It was created by God, but it is not in God's image.
- We were created in God's image, to reflect Him.

**Man Was Created For Relationship**

On the board or a large piece of paper, help the children list people that they love the most. Help them name people that you know they really care about. Then ask them to explain why they love them so much.

- Each of you has a relationship with the people you love the most. These people are your moms and dads or your brothers and sisters. Some of them are your friends and grandparents.
- Do you know why you love them so much? (You love them because you have a relationship with them.)
- Do you know why God created us? (He created us to have a relationship with Him.)

Man Reflects God to the World

Bring in a large mirror or several small mirrors. Lead the children in a discussion of how we were created to reflect God. Allow them to look at themselves in the mirrors and then describe what they see. The image in the mirror isn't really them, but it's a reflection of them, just like we are a reflection of God.

- What do you see when you look in the mirror? (You see your reflection.)
- Can your reflection exist or be without you? (No, if you move away from the mirror, your reflection disappears.)
- God created us to reflect Him. This means we are not God, but we reflect His image and others can learn about God by watching us.
- If we reflect God's image, how should we act and behave? (We should love people and obey God's Word.)