

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2ND GRADE

TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 1

God Created Us



God Created Us

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month's books, you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will show that God is the Creator, who rules over everything and He created us to be holy like Him.

Key Verses

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7, 18-23—Main Teaching Passage
Genesis 1:1-25 (Background)

Books to Memorize

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 King, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, **Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum**

Hook

Make a craft with the rest of the class. Have students show their crafts to the rest of the class. Have one student come up to the front and put their craft next to yours. Ask the rest of the class if they think it would be OK for you to ruin the other student's craft. Then ask if it's OK for you to break your own.

When you make something, you are the owner. You get to decide what happens to it, where it goes, and what it does. Today we are going to see how God created humans, and that means that He is in charge of us.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

As we have gone over the creation story before and most of the kids should know it, we will only briefly review the first five days of creation. On the first day, God created light and made the evening and the morning. The second day God separated the water, land, and sky, and on the third day He created plants. God created the sun, moon, and stars on fourth day and made birds and sea creatures the fifth day. On the sixth day, God created the land animals, but our focus will be the other thing He made on the sixth day: man.

Genesis 1:26 tells us that God made man in His image and likeness. Man was supposed to have dominion, or rule over creation under God's authority. God looked at the man He had created, and in verse 31 we are told that God said that man was, "very good." In Genesis 2:7, we are given more detail that man was created from the dust of the ground and that God breathed the breath of life into him.

However, there was one thing about man that was not good: He was alone. In Genesis 2:18-23, we read that the man (Adam) was naming all the animals when he saw that there was 2 of every kind of animal, but only one of him. So God put Adam to sleep, took a rib from his side, and from that rib formed a woman. This woman would later be named Eve. God created both man and woman in His image to rule over creation and make sure the whole earth obeyed and followed Him.

LOOK

For the rest of the year, we are going to be studying the Gospel. The Gospel is the most important part of the Christian faith because it answers the question of how we can get right with God and spend our lives with Him in heaven forever. This journey will answer all kinds of questions, such as what sin is, why Jesus died on the cross, and how we should live as Christians. But before we get to all that, we have to start at the beginning and look at who God is, where humans come from, and why God made us.

The first thing the Bible tells us about God is that He is the one who created everything. From the biggest planet to the littlest bug, everything was made by Him. But the last thing, the most important thing He created was people. The first five and a half days of creation made the earth ready to have humans living on it. The Bible says that God created us in His own image and likeness. We are set apart from all of creation to help God rule over it and have a unique relationship with God that is different than God's relationship with the rest of His creation.

The interpretation/
exegesis of the
passage. What does
this passage mean?
How does this passage
apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

Because God is the Creator, He is in charge of us. Just like how a person who builds something gets to decide what happens to what they made or a mother or father have authority over the children they have, so also God rules over us and over the rest of creation. Because He made everything, He gets to decide what people should do and where they should go. We help God rule over the rest of creation (that's what the word "dominion" in Genesis 1:26 means), but we ourselves still are under His authority.

When God created man, just as He said of the rest of creation was good throughout Genesis 1, He said man was very good (Genesis 1:31). God is holy, which means He has never and will never sin in thought, word, or deed. When He created man, man was holy too. We did not have sin, and because there was no sin, Adam and Eve were able to enjoy friendship with God in the Garden of Eden. God created humanity so that we could enjoy this holy and pure relationship with Him forever. As we will see in later studies, we unfortunately did not remain sinless for very long. But what's important to see for now is that God made us to be holy and have friendship with Him.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class how God made Adam and how He made Eve. Ask why it is important to know that God created us. How did He want us to live?

Pray: Thank God for creating us to live in relationship with Him. Ask for His help to obey His authority.

Parent Question: Why is God in charge of us?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7, 18-23 by David Guzik

2. ([Gen 1:26](#)) God plans to make man in His image.

Then 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.”

a. **Let Us make man in Our image:** The use of the plural (**Let Us...in Our image, according to Our likeness**) is consistent with the idea that there is One God in three Persons, what we know as the Trinity.

i. Leupold does a good job showing that the plurality of **let Us make** cannot be merely the plurality of royalty, nor can it be God speaking with and to the angels. It is an indicator of the Trinity, though not clearly spelled out.

b. **In Our image:** An understanding of who man is begins with knowing we are made in the image of God. Man is different from every other order of created being because He has a created consistency with God.

i. This means there is an unbridgeable gap between human life and animal life. Though we are biologically similar to certain animals, we are distinct in our moral, intellectual, and spiritual capabilities.

ii. This means there is also an unbridgeable gap between human life and angelic life. Nowhere are we told the angels are made in the **image** of God. Angels cannot have the same kind of relationship of love and fellowship with God we can have.

iii. This means the incarnation was truly possible. God (in the Second Person of the Trinity) could really become man, because although deity and humanity are not the same, they are compatible.

iv. This means human life has intrinsic value, quite apart from the “quality of life” experienced by any individual, because human life is made in the **image** of God.

c. **In Our image:** There are several specific things in man that show him to be made in the **image** of God.

- Man alone has a natural countenance looking upward
- Man alone has such a variety of facial expressions
- Man alone has a sense of shame expressing itself in a blush
- Man alone speaks

· Man alone possesses *personality, morality, and spirituality*

d. **In Our image:** There are at least three aspects to the idea that we are made in the **image** of God.

· It means humans possess *personality*: knowledge, feelings, and a will. This sets man apart from all animals and plants

· It means humans possess *morality*: we are able to make moral judgments and have a conscience

· It means humans possess *spirituality*: man is made for communion with God. It is on the level of spirit we communicate with God

e. **In Our image:** This does not mean that God has a physical or human body. God is a Spirit ([John 4:24](#)). Though God does not have a physical body, He designed man so man's physical body could do many of the things God does: see, hear, smell, touch, speak, think, plan, and so forth.

i. "It will hardly be safe to say that the body of man is patterned after God, because God, being an incorporeal spirit, cannot have what we term a material body. Yet the body of man must at least be regarded as the fittest receptacle for the man's spirit and so must bear at least an analogy that is so close that God and His angels choose to appear in human form when they appear to men." (Leupold)

f. **In Our image, according to Our likeness:** The terms for **image** and **likeness** are slightly different. **Image** has more to do with appearance, and **likeness** has more to do with an abstract similarity, but they both essentially mean the same thing here in this context.

g. **Let them have dominion:** Before God ever created man He decreed man would **have dominion over** the earth. Man's pre-eminence of the created order and his ability to affect his environment is no accident; it is part of God's plan for man and the earth.

i. In this sense, it is sin if man does not use this dominion responsibly, in the sense of a proper regard for stewardship on this earth.

3. ([Gen 1:27-31](#)) God's creation of man and initial commission to Adam.

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

a. **So God created man in His own image:** God created man according to His plan as described in [Genesis 1:26](#). The concept of man being created **in the image of God** is repeated to give emphasis to the idea.

i. We are plainly told God created man fully formed, and created him in one day, not gradually over millions of

years of progressive evolution. The idea that a slow, progressive evolution could produce a complex mechanism like the human body just doesn't hold up.

ii. It is said there would be at least 40 different stages of evolution required to form an eye. What possible benefit could there be for the first 39 stages? The mathematician D.S. Ulam argues it was highly improbable for the eye to evolve by the accumulation of small mutations, because the number of mutations must be so large and the time available was not nearly long enough for them to appear. Evolutionist Ernst Mayr commented: "Somehow or other by adjusting these figures we will come out all right. We are comforted by the fact that evolution has occurred." Johnson observes: "Darwinism to them was not a theory open to refutation but a fact to be accounted for." (Johnson)

iii. Darwin wrote: "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." Professor Richard Goldschmidt, a geneticist at the University of California at Berkeley, listed a series of complex structures (from the hair of mammals to hemoglobin) he thought could not have been produced by thousands of years of small mutations. "The Darwinists met this fantastic suggestion with savage ridicule. As Goldschmidt put it, "This time I was not only crazy but almost a criminal.' ...To suppose that such a random event could reconstruct even a single complex organ like a liver or kidney is about as reasonable as to suppose that an improved watch can be designed by throwing an old one against the wall." (Johnson)

b. **Male and female He created them:** This should not be construed to mean Adam was originally some type of androgynous being, being both male and female. This passage of Genesis gives us an overview of God's creation of man, and [Genesis 2](#) will explain how exactly God created male and female.

i. In our day, many say there is no real difference between men and women. This makes sense if we are the result of mindless evolution, but not it is true that **male and female He created them**. To God, the differences between men and women are not accidents. Since He created them, the differences are good and meaningful.

ii. Men are not women, and women are not men. One of the saddest signs of our culture's depravity is the amount and the degree of gender confusion today.

iii. It is vain to wonder if men or women are superior to the other. A man is absolutely superior at being a man. A woman is absolutely superior at being a woman. But when a man tries to be a woman or a woman tries to be a man, you have something inferior.

c. **Then God blessed them:** the first thing God did for man was to bless him. Without the goodness of God's blessing, human life would be not only unbearable, but also impossible.

d. **Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion:** God also gives man a job to do: fulfill God's intention of man's exercise of dominion over the earth. Inherent in this command is that man should **be fruitful and multiply** and **fill the earth**. Man cannot fulfill God's plan for him on the earth unless

he populates it.

e. **To you it shall be for food:** God gave man dominion over the whole earth, but only vegetation is specifically mentioned as being **for food**. Seemingly, before the flood, the human race was vegetarian, but after the flood, man was given permission to eat the flesh of animals ([Genesis 9:3](#)).

f. **God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good:** God's final analysis of His work of creation is that it was **very good**. God was pleased with His creation, and so are we!

i. When God pronounced the creation **good**, He really meant it. At the time, it was entirely **good**; there was no death or decay on earth at all.

2. ([Gen 2:7](#)) The history of the heavens and the earth.

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.

e. **The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground:** When God created man He made him out of the most basic elements, **the dust of the ground**. There is nothing "spectacular" in what man is made of, only in the way those basic things are organized.

i. When the Bible speaks of **dust**, it means something of little worth, associated with lowliness and humility ([Genesis 18:27](#); [1 Samuel 2:8](#); [1 Kings 16:2](#)). In the Bible, **dust** isn't evil and it isn't nothing; but it is *next* to nothing.

f. **And breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being:** With this Divine breath man became **a living being**, like other forms of animal life (the term *chay nephesh* is used in [Genesis 1:21](#), [1:24](#), and here). Yet only man is a **living being** made in the **image of God** ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)).

i. The word for **breath** in Hebrew is *ruach* – the word imitates the very sound of breath – is the same word for *Spirit*, as is the case in both ancient Greek (*pneuma*) and Latin (*spiritus*). God created man by putting His *breath*, His *Spirit*, within him.

ii. "The implication, readily seen by any Hebrew reader, [is] that man was specially created by God's breathing some of His own breath into him." (Boice)

iii. The King James Version reads: *man became a living soul*. This makes some wonder if man *is* a soul, or if man *has* a soul. This passage seems to indicate that man *is* a soul, while passages like [1 Thessalonians 5:23](#) and [Hebrews 4:12](#) seem to indicate that man *has* a soul. It seems that the Scripture speaks in both ways, and uses the term in different ways and in different contexts.

1. ([Gen 2:18](#)) God declares He will make **a helper comparable** to Adam.

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

- a. **It is not good that man should be alone:** For the first time, God saw something that was **not good** – the aloneness of man. God never intended for man to be alone, either in the marital or social sense.
- i. Marriage, in particular, has a blessed “civilizing” influence on man. The most wild, violent, sociopathic men in history have always been single, never under the plan God gave to influence men for good. This is *not good!*
- b. **I will make him a helper comparable to him:** God’s “blueprint” for creating this companion to Adam was to make a **helpercomparable** to Adam.
- i. Different versions of the Bible translate this idea in a variety of ways, but the idea is essentially the same in each of them:
- *Helper meet (suitable, adapted, completing)* (Amplified)
 - *A companion ... a helper suited to his needs* (Living)
 - *A helper such as he needs* (Beck)
 - *A helper correspondent to himself* (Septuagint Bible)
 - *A helper suitable* (NIV, NASB)
 - *A help meet for him* (KJV)
- c. **A helper comparable:** In reference to the marriage relationship, God created woman to be a perfectly suitable helper to the man. This means God gave the plan and agenda to Adam, and he and the woman together work to fulfill it.
- i. The phrase “in reference to the marriage relationship” is used because God has not ordained women to be helpers to men in authority (instead of being in authority themselves), except in marriage and in the church ([1 Timothy 2:12-13](#)).
- ii. God gives to man the responsibility (and the accountability) to be the leader in the home and gives to the woman the responsibility and the accountability to help him.
- iii. This does not mean there is to be no help from the man to the woman (though in many cases this is sadly true). It means when God looks down from heaven upon the family, He sees a man in leadership, good or bad, faithful or not, to the calling of leadership. A true leader will, of course, help those helping him.
- iv. We only see “helping” as a position of inferiority when we think like the world thinks. God considers positions of service as most important in His sight ([Matthew 20:25-28](#)).
- d. **A helper comparable:** Not only was the woman to be a **helper**, but also she was made **comparable** to the man. She should be considered and honored as such. A woman or wife cannot be regarded as a mere tool or worker, but as an equal partner in God’s grace and an equal human being.
2. ([Gen 2:19-20](#)) No helper was found comparable for Adam among the animals.

Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that

was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

a. **Brought them to Adam to see what he would call them:** If Adam had the capability to intelligently name all the animals, it shows he was a brilliant man. Since at this time Adam's intellect had not yet suffered from the fall, he was probably the most brilliant man who ever lived. Adam was the first and greatest of all biologists and botanists.

b. **So Adam gave names:** Adam did not name any other animal after himself, calling any other animal "man" or "human." By this, we see he understood that he was essentially different from all the animals. They were not made in the image of God.

i. Mark Twain had a joke where he described Adam coming home to Eve after naming all the animals. Eve looked at an elephant and said, "What did you name that big animal?" Adam replied, "I called it an elephant." Eve asked, "Why did you call it an elephant?" Adam answered, "Because it looked like an elephant!"

c. **But for Adam there was not found a helper:** It was obvious to Adam that the animals came in pairs and he had no mate. Since God deliberately had Adam name the animals after seeing his need for a partner ([Genesis 2:18](#)), God used this to prepare Adam to receive the gift of woman.

3. ([Gen 2:21-22](#)) God makes the first woman from Adam's side.

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

a. **God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam:** This is the first surgery recorded in history. God even used a proper anesthetic on Adam.

b. **The ribe which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman:** God used Adam's own body to create Eve to forever remind him of their essential oneness. As Adam came to know Eve he would see many ways that they were different, but he must never forget that they are essentially one and that they are made of the same substance. They are more alike than they are different.

i. We don't really know *exactly* what God took from Adam's side to make Eve, and it doesn't really matter. Modern research into cloning and genetic replication shows every cell in our body contains the body's entire genetic blueprint. God took some of Adam's cells and changed their genetic blueprint in the creation of Eve. Nevertheless, the story that women have one more rib than men because of the way Eve was created is a myth.

ii. We also know the Bride of Christ comes from the wound made in the side of the second Adam, Jesus Christ.

iii. There is a beautiful Jewish tradition saying God made woman, not out of man's foot to be under him, nor

out of his head to be over him, but “She was taken from under his arm that he might protect her and from next to his heart that he might love her.” (Barnhouse)

c. **He made into a woman:** It is important to realize that there are not two beginnings to the human race, one in Adam and one in Eve. There was one beginning of the human race in Adam.

d. **And He brought her to the man:** God brought Eve to Adam and created Eve out of Adam. He was first – the source and the head. She was created to be a helper perfectly suited to him. Thus the subordinate relationship of wives to husbands is found *before* the curse, not only after it.

4. ([Gen 2:23](#)) Adam’s brilliant understanding of who Eve is and how she is related to him.

And Adam said:

“This is now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.”

a. **This is now bone of my bones:** Adam recognized that Eve was both like him (**bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh**) and not like him (**woman...taken out of man**).

b. **Flesh of my flesh:** Adam understood the essential *oneness* in his relationship with Eve. This point is so important that it is referred to several times in the New Testament, including the great marriage passage in [Ephesians 5:28-29](#): *so husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it* ([Ephesians 5:28-29](#)).

i. No one walks into a room and seeks the most uncomfortable seat. The natural concern we have for ourselves causes us to take care of ourselves. In a healthy marriage relationship the husband realizes the essential union he has with his wife, that he cannot bless her without blessing himself and he cannot mistreat or neglect her without mistreating or neglecting himself.

c. **She was taken out of Man:** Adam recognized that though he and Eve were one, she was not the same as him. He understood that two different people were becoming one. [1 Peter 3:7](#) tells husbands to recognize that they are one with someone different, someone whom they must understand: *Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel.*

i. If men and women are different, are they equal? Elisabeth Elliot, quoted in Boice: “In what sense is red equal to blue? They are equal only in the sense that both are colors in the spectrum. Apart from that they are different. In what sense is hot equal to cold? They are both temperatures, but beyond this it is almost meaningless to talk about equality.”

d. **She shall be called woman:** “*Woman* has been defined by many as compounded for *wo* and *man*, as if called *man’s wo* because she tempted him to eat the forbidden fruit; but this is *no* meaning of the original word, nor could it be intended, as the transgression was not then committed.” (Clarke)