



UNIT 1 | SESSION 2

GOD CREATED PEOPLE

GENESIS 1-2

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 19:1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God created people in His own image and provides for everything He made. People are special because God made people to live forever in a relationship with Him. Through His Son, Jesus, we can have eternal life with God just as He planned.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Humans are at the center of everything God created. Only God Himself is more important. That is why the creation of the first man and woman—Adam and Eve—deserved its own session.

As you prepare for this week’s session, there are two words that might be unclear or even confusing. The first is our in Genesis 1:26. “Let us make man in our image.” This can be confusing because the Bible is clear that there is only one God (see Deuteronomy 6:4 and 1 Timothy 2:5). Why then does God say our image and not my image?

Bible scholars have long debated what is meant by this word, but here are two of the most common explanations. The first is that this word is affirming the doctrine known as the Trinity—that God is one in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The word our in this verse is drawing from that important aspect of who God is. This would make sense here because a common, but wrong, belief of why God created people was because He was lonely. But God as three Persons in one is never alone. He has always enjoyed a perfect relationship of love within who He is. It would make sense that God wants to make that clear here.

A second explanation for our is that it is the use of what is called the “plural of majesty.” In this case, God is establishing from very early on how glorious He is, even in how He refers to Himself.

The second word that deserves a note is image. Once again, scholars have debated for ages about what this word means. But we can know what it does not mean: physical form. God is spirit (see John 4:24), so we are not made with a body like God’s body; He has no body. Instead, being made in God’s image includes attributes of people that separate us from the rest of creation (such as our ability to reason, our morality, our will, and our emotions) and our unique role in creation as ruling over it under God’s greater rule.

While we might not know what these two words mean exactly, we do know this for sure: our glorious God has made people to be special in all of His creation and designed us to be in relationship with Him.

TERMS TO KNOW

Image Bearers: Every person bears God’s image. We are like God in ways that the rest of creation is not. God gives us the ability to reason, feel emotions, and understand right and wrong. Jesus is the perfect image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “How many people do you think are in the world today? More than 7 billion! And just think of all the people who lived before us. It all started with just two people.”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete “Portrait Time” on the activity page.

SAY “God made you exactly how He wanted—your eye color, your hair texture, your skin tone, your interests. He has a perfect plan for your life.”

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: THE HUMAN BODY



Read each sentence about the human body. Instruct kids to clap if they believe the sentence is true or stomp their feet if they think it is false. Give kids time to respond, and then reveal the answer.

- The human eye is about the size of a marble. (*false, table tennis ball*)
- The colored part of your eye—the iris—is a muscle. (*true*)
- Your mouth has about 1 million taste buds. (*false, ten thousand*)
- Your largest organ is your lungs. (*false, your skin*)
- Every part of your body has the ability to repair itself. (*false, some but not all*)
- The hardest bone in your body is in your ear. (*true*)

SAY “Our bodies are pretty amazing! What do you think is most incredible about the human body? No two bodies are alike, but we all have something in common—God created us! Today, we will hear about God’s creation of the first two people.”

OPTION 2: RELATIONSHIP RINGS

Draw three concentric circles on a poster board. Label the inner circle with the number 10, the next circle with a 5, and the outer circle with a 1. Position the poster on the floor at one end of the room.

Form two teams of kids. Instruct teams to line up at one side of the room. Challenge the first player in each line to toss a beanbag at the poster to earn points for his team. Depending on where the beanbag lands, a player will name someone they have a close relationship with, like family (10), a friendly relationship, like friends (5), or a distant relationship, like acquaintances (1). If a beanbag lands off the poster, the player should name someone they have no relationship with, like a stranger.

Give teams an equal number of turns. The team with the most points wins.

SAY “You have many types of relationships in your life. Today, we’ll hear how God created us to be in a relationship with Him and how our relationships with others reflect God’s image.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 1–2. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Created People.” Use the bolded text to retell or review the story.

GOD CREATED PEOPLE

“On the sixth day of creation, God made people. God said, “Let us make man in our image. They will rule over the whole earth and all the creatures on the earth.” So God created both male and female people in His image.

God took dust from the ground and made a body. God breathed into the man, and the man became alive. God planted a garden in the land of Eden and put the man there. God told the man to work in the garden and take care of it.

God provided food from the trees for the man to eat, and God provided a river to water the garden. Then God said, “You may eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one.” The garden had a tree in it called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned the man, “If you eat from that tree, you will die.”

Then God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” So God decided to make a helper for the man. God brought to the man the animals He had created, and the man gave names to all of the creatures. But none of the animals was a good helper for the man.

So God made the man fall into a deep sleep. He took one of the man’s ribs and created a woman. When the man saw the woman, he was very happy. “This one, at last,” he said, “is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.”

The woman was a perfect helper for the man; she was his wife. The man’s name was Adam, and his wife’s name was Eve.

God gave Adam and Eve good things. He put them in charge of the animals and provided everything they needed. God looked at everything He had made, and it was very good. So on the seventh day of creation, God rested from His work.

Christ Connection: God created people in His own image and provides for everything He made. People are special because God made people to live forever in a relationship with Him. Through His Son, Jesus, we can have eternal life with God just as He planned. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use hand motions:

As you tell the story, move your hands to show forming a body from dust, pointing out all the trees in the garden, sleeping, and so forth.

Display art: Show

various pieces of art depicting people. Include people of many different ages and races.

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ God created people differently than everything else He made. Open your Bible to Genesis 1. What did God say before He created people? Look at verse 26. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 1:26.] God said, ‘Let us make man in our image.’ Why do you think God said ‘us’ and ‘our’? Who was He talking about? [Allow kids to respond.] God exists as one God in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity.

Also, all people are made in the image of God. Being made in God’s image means that people are like God in ways that the rest of creation is not. It means we are made like Him, or patterned after Him. God does not have a physical body; He is Spirit, and He has given each of us a spirit. God gives people the ability to think and to feel emotions and to make choices. He gives us the ability to understand right and wrong.

God created us to be in a relationship with Him. The first two people—Adam and Eve—had a relationship with God. He talked with them and gave them everything they needed. Can you name some of the things God provided for Adam and Eve? Look at Genesis 1:29-30. [Choose a volunteer to read the passage aloud.] God provided a home in the garden, food to eat, and a purpose: to work, to rest, and—most importantly—to know Him.

Even though we are sinners, we still bear God’s image today. Every person bears the image of God. We don’t perfectly reflect what God is like, but He created us to rule wisely, to be in relationship with Him, to work, and to rest. He wants us to know and love Him. This brings God glory. **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.**

The next time we meet, we will learn more about how creation glorifies God. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God created people in His own image and provides for everything He made. People are special because God made people to live forever in a relationship with Him.

We’ll hear more as we read in Genesis about how sin ruined people’s perfect relationship with God. Through His Son, Jesus, we can have eternal life with God just as He planned. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ How did God show that He loved Adam and Eve? How does He show He loves us? ”

Prompt kids to recall the ways God provided for Adam and Eve. He gave them a beautiful garden to live in, work to do, and everything they needed. God shows His love for us by providing what we need. Look all around! He gives good gifts for us to enjoy. Best of all, He gives us Himself. God created us to have a close relationship with Him as His children.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 4:19.)

| **SAY** “ How can you have a closer relationship with God? ”

Encourage kids to think about how they build relationships with other people, such as spending time together, talking, and listening. Lead kids to recognize that they can grow in their relationship with God by spending time with Him as they read His Word and pray. Point out that just like a new friend, the more time they spend with God the more they will know and love Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 4:7-8.)

| **SAY** “ How should God’s creating people in His image affect how you treat others? ”

Help kids recognize that God created every person. Every person is important and valuable, and He loves them. He wants us to treat one another with respect, love, and dignity. Remind kids to accept this truth for themselves. They are important, valuable, and loved too.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 10:27.)