

GOD CREATES THE ANIMALS AND MAN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 1-2



God created man and placed him in a garden without sin.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

God created all things by His own initiative without the help of man or nature – Everything that happened was by the controlling hand of God. God was the author of creation: “Out of the ground God made, the Lord God formed,” etc. God was also behind that which did not happen: “God had not caused it to rain on the land.” All things that took place were under the sovereign direction of the creator.

Man did not offer his help. Though Adam looked among the animals and found no suitable helper, he was unable to solve his dilemma. Though God created nature with moving processes such as water flowing and trees growing, it is clearly God who moves and controls the process.

There is a prescribed order and authority in the creation – God, not man defines the boundaries. God is set above the creation as its master. God placed man in the garden and gave him a job. Man is subject to God. God doesn't ask permission to put Adam to sleep or to create the woman and give her the role as helpmate for man, or to declare the seventh day a day for rest. God moves according to his own will without consultation or limit.

God creates man in His image and God initiates a relationship with man – God did not talk to the trees or the animals. None of the animals bear His image. God did not touch and tenderly care for the other aspects of creation as He did man and woman. Being created in God's image is what makes human life sacred. To hate, hurt, or kill human life is to come against God and His image in the creation.

This relationship would not have taken place had God not revealed Himself to man. Man would not have known God had God remained hidden from man. God would have been known as an impersonal creator by virtue of His creation, but would not have been known as the personal creator who can speak and touch and relate to man.

Woman is given to man as his helper – Woman is created for the specific purpose of being a suitable helper for the man. Adam, prior to the fall, cares for the woman and cherishes her.

The seventh day is set apart by God as a day of rest – God sets apart the seventh day and makes it holy. This takes place prior to the fall, prior to the issuance of the Mosaic Law. The seventh day is made holy by God's decree after God did his work of creation.

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WHERE IS JESUS?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

God creates the first man and calls him Adam. Jesus is called the last Adam. Jesus the second Adam reverses the curse brought on by the sin of the first Adam. Now that Jesus, the second Adam, has come, when we read about Adam in Genesis we should remember Jesus of Nazareth.

What do we learn about how the Bible is one big story from this passage? (Though the Bible is composed of many different books by many different authors, it is one Story – God's Story. The Bible is God telling His story to us, using people to write it down.)

ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Isaiah 9:6

Connecting the passage to Christ:

Isaiah foretells of a child born who would be a son and the government will be upon His shoulders. Then Isaiah goes on to say that He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace. Jesus is the only person who could fit this description.

Questions for reflection:

- How does this prophecy describe Jesus? (No other child ever born was both man and God. He is human, as He was born a child, and God, as He is called Mighty God.)
- How do we fulfill this prophecy every Christmas? (Handel's Messiah performed every Christmas repeats the words of Isaiah 9:6 in describing Jesus. When we call Jesus by these names the prophecy is fulfilled.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

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ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

NAME THE ANIMALS

Supplies:

- photos of animals (you can borrow books from the library or download photos of animals, look for unusual animals that the children may not already know)

Read Genesis 2:19-20 and explain that God gave the responsibility to name the animals to man. Tell them that you are going to show them a picture and describe an animal to them and you want them to pretend they are an explorer who came upon this animal while exploring and they need to give it a name. They can make up a totally new word or use words that describe what the animal looks like, such as naming an elephant a longnosser.

After the fun part of this exercise, ask the children who named Adam. Explain to them that God Himself named Adam (Genesis 1:26). Man (Adam) was made in the image of God and was named by God. God maintained leadership over the man but gave man leadership over the animals and woman. The word for man is adam in Hebrew. Even though the Bible often translates adam as man they are one and the same word which can mean all of mankind or Adam the first man.

LIFE FROM DUST

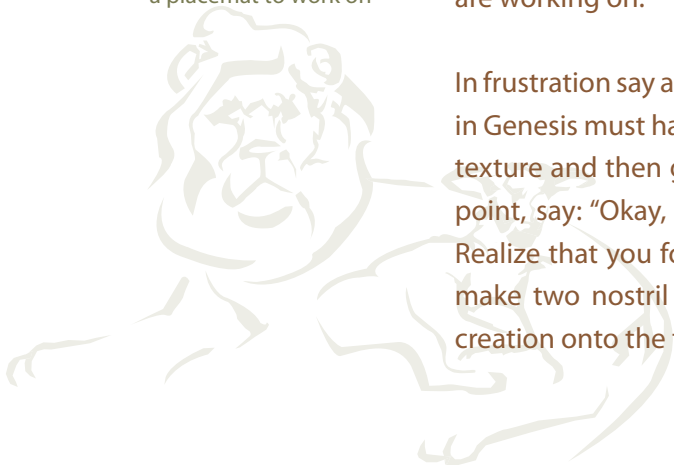
Supplies:

- a cupful of dirt
- a spoon
- some water
- a placemat to work on

Explain to the children that you are going to follow the recipe to make a man.

Read Genesis 2:7 out loud as you act out the forming of man from the dust of the ground. At first your soil or dirt should be dry. Try to form something out of the soil only to have it sift through your fingers and fall back down onto the table you are working on.

In frustration say aloud, "I must be missing something." Then realize that the ground in Genesis must have been wet. Add a little water to create a mud molding clay like texture and then get excited. Start molding a figure as best as you can. At some point, say: "Okay, on to the next step." Read out loud, "breath into his nostrils?" Realize that you forgot to make nostrils. Ask one of the children for a pencil and make two nostril holes. Then blow into them and jump back, dropping your creation onto the table.



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When nothing happens, re-read the directions to see what you missed. Ask for volunteers to come up and try breathing in the nostrils. Try saying some magic words like abracadabra and the like.

Ask the children why they think it is not working and lead into a discussion about how amazing God is to be able to create man out of the dust of the earth. Explain that many people reject the fact that God was involved and they believe that the dirt made man itself!

A HELPER SUITABLE

Supplies:

- 12" length of a 2"x4" board
- one Phillips #8 wood screw
- a large selection of tools such as tape measure, hammer, pliers, scraper, sand paper, ruler, pipe wrench, and one Phillips screwdriver

Prior to class drill a pilot hole in the piece of wood and screw in the #8 wood screw flush to the surface of the board.

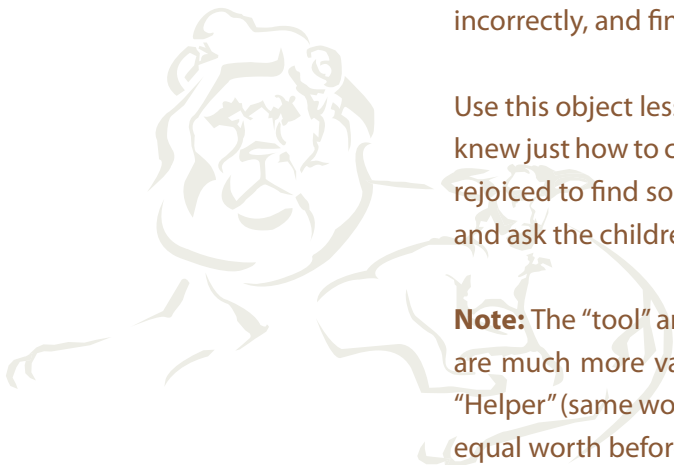
In the classroom, lay out the tools on the table and allow the children to look at them when they come into class. (Keep the board with the screw and the screw driver hidden until you use them later.)

Show the board to the class and explain that you are going to pretend that you are a bushman from the outback and have never seen a tool before. You are going ask the class to create a new name for each of the tools and try to find a helper suitable to remove the shiny thing, (the screw) from the wood. Name all the tools and look for a tool which can help you get the screw out of the wood. A hammer, for instance, might be called a thumb smasher for humor.

Go through the tools one by one by one, naming them and coming to the conclusion that they are not a suitable helper. In the end, come to the conclusion that no suitable helper can be found. Then, at the last moment, remember the screwdriver, or find it hidden. Get all excited, match the tip of the screwdriver to the screw and ask the class what you should do. Play out the drama by using the screwdriver incorrectly, and finally take out the screw.

Use this object lesson to help the children remember the Bible story, and how God knew just how to create the perfect helper for Adam. Explain to the class that Adam rejoiced to find someone like Him that could share His life. Go on to read verse 24 and ask the children what it is describing. The answer is the first marriage.

Note: The "tool" analogy can only be taken so far. Eve and the creation of women are much more valuable than a "tool." In fact, in Hebrews 13:6, God is called our "Helper" (same word). God honors the role of women and esteems them. They have equal worth before God, though their role is different than man.



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PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. The older children can do a sculpture project with clay, or cut straws and white glue.

Teach the children that one of our unique abilities in being made in God's image is that we have the capacity to create. No other living creature, possibly not even the angels, has the ability to take an idea and translate it into something that does not exist anywhere else in the world. This God-given ability to create results in the wonderful man-made things around us. Consider some of man's most amazing creations such as the space shuttle, a Rembrandt painting, the Empire State Building, or even our church's logo. All of these were created with the special skill God gave mankind. Knowing that we alone are like God in this way should help us to remember to glorify God in our creations.

Have the children design a sculpture that represents some aspect of God's creation.



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FOR OLDER GRADES

FOR THE OLDER CHILDREN

Supplies:

pen and paper for each
child

One of the other ways we are made in the image of God is that we can speak words. God created words, and they belong to Him. He gives them to man as a gift. God created with words when He said, "Let there be light." We cannot create out of nothing with words, but we can assemble words to create. Poetry is a creative arranging of words to express artistically some thought or idea. Poems may rhyme or have a certain sound or rhythm to their words.

Have the children create a poem which honors God and his creation. If they are not able to finish this week, collect the papers, pass them out again next week and finally in the third week give them an opportunity to read their creations. Remember to emphasize the amazing ability man has been given to string words together in special meaning and how important it is that we bring glory to God in what we write and say.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Woman – Woman was created out of Adam, for Adam. In Genesis 2:18 we read that God made woman to be a "helper suitable" for Adam. In Genesis 1:27 we see that God made both man and woman in His image. As a result, both man and woman have equal worth in God's eyes, for both reflect His holy image. Though they are equally image bearers of the holy living God, they do not both have the same jobs to do. Adam is called upon to name the animals, and in fact, he also names Woman. Eve is called upon to be a helper for Adam. God brings them together in verse 2:24 and creates the first marriage. Paul refers back to this passage of the first marriage in Ephesians 5 where he teaches that Christ is the head of the church and husbands are the head of their wives. This pattern of leadership has its beginnings in the creation record of Genesis 2.

