

# CREATION

## “God Created Humans in the Image of God”

**Series Objective:** Students will learn:

- God is the Creator God
- God set an example for humanity in the Sabbath
- Humans were created for relationship with God and other Humans
- Humans, Male and Female, are created “In the image of God.”

**Series Theme Verse:** “So God created humanity in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27

**Lesson Objective:** Students will understand that God created all of humanity in the image of God.

**Lesson Passage:** Genesis 1:24-31

**Materials Needed:** Bibles, magazines that deal with image, scissors, butcher paper or poster board, markers, tape

**Lesson Plan:**

**The Story:**

**Talking Points:**

- What did God create on Day 6? List everything and give examples of each (Land Creatures: livestock, ground creatures, wild animals; humans)
- Why did God create humans? (to rule over fish, birds, livestock, wild animals, and ground creatures)
- What does it mean for humans to “rule over” the animals? (Let students discuss, but lead them to an understanding that God begins the creation of humanity, not with ruling over, but with humans created in the image of God. To understand what it means to “rule over” creation, we must understand how God “rules over” creation. God protects and cares for creation, which is what it means for humans to do the same)
- What are some ways we can “rule over” creation now that we understand it in the terms of us being created in the image of God? (Care for pets rather than treat as less than creation, provide water and feed for birds, care for the environment by cutting up plastic coke rings to protect animals that might get caught in them, etc.)
- What is the only part of creation that is created “in the image of God?” (Humans)

- Are women created “in the image of God?” (Yes)
- How do you know? (1:27 says “in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”)
- What does it mean to be “created in the image of God?” (We have the likeness of God as a part of our being and we carry the resemblance and nature of God as a part of us)
- Are we God? (No)
- How are we “created in the image of God,” then? (We have the responsibility to protect and care for creation, we are creative, we are children of God, we are the culmination of the creative process)
- Just a question for thought, what does God give humans to eat in the creation narrative of Chapter 1 of Genesis? (Plants and fruit, not animals. The original creation was one of harmony between humans and animals, both eating only plants)
- Last week we talked about how God created us for relationship and today we are talking about what it means to be created “in the image of God.” Creation “in the image of God” means that no matter what anyone tells you, you are special because you are a child of God created in the image of the Creator.
- At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Creation, what is God’s reflective thought? (God saw that it was very good)
- Why do you think God said the 6<sup>th</sup> Day was “Very Good” when Days 1-5 were only “Good”? (God created humanity and created them in the image of God, but also because 2:1 says Creation was completed)
- We see all throughout the Old and New Testament that God loves us and that love began in the creation of humanity in the image of God.

### **The Story Retold:**

- Give students the stack of magazines you brought with you and a pair of scissors. Have them cut out pictures that are “image-type” pictures. Have them cut out pictures or words that illustrate the image that society holds for humans (i.e. skinny, fashionable, pimple-free, tight clothes, etc.). Have them tape their words and pictures on one piece of butcher paper or poster board.
- Now have students cut out words or pictures that illustrate the image that God has created us in (i.e. holy, love, friends, relationship, etc.). Have them tape their words or pictures on another piece of butcher paper or poster board.
- Ask students to look at the two collages they have created. Ask them what the difference is between the two collages. Ask which collage makes them feel special or important. Ask which image they would like to be seen as. Tell students that living out the image of God begins with them. When students understand that they are created in the image of God and that makes them special, then nothing else matters. The world cannot set the image of who we are because God has already done that by creating us in the image of God.
- Ask students if it is important to look at others as being created in the image of God. Lead students to understand that it is not enough to just see ourselves

as created in the image of God, we must see every person as created in the image of God. From presidents to terrorists to our friends and enemies at school to our family members, when we see others as being created in the image of God, we are able to love as God loves and pray for others as we should.

- Ask students to think about the person they like the least. Remind them that this person is created in the image of God and we are to love them.
- Now, have the students take the butcher paper of the “world’s image” off the wall. As a group, tear the butcher paper or poster board to shreds. Tell students to remember that God defines why they are special, not the world or anybody else.

### **The Story and Me:**

- Have students recite Genesis 1:27 together for the final time in this unit.
- Give each student a notecard that has the verse written on it. Have them write one word on the card that makes them special because of how God created them (happy, loving, loved, etc.).
- After they have written the word, have them look at the card while you say the verse. As the leader, say “So God created (Insert a student’s name) in God’s own image, in the image of God, God created (Student’s Name).”
- Do this for each student in your group.