

**ADULT LESSON GUIDE  
FALL 2021**

**IN THE BEGINNING**  
CREATION AND  
MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE

**A VOICE IN  
THE WILDERNESS**  
THE LIFE AND MINISTRY  
OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

**PRAISE YE  
THE LORD**  
A STUDY ON PSALMS

**GOD'S  
WORD**  
FOR LIFE



**GOD'S  
WORD**



FOR LIFE

ADULT LESSON GUIDE  
**FALL 2021**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Series 1:

### In the Beginning

1.1	Sept. 5	Purpose in Creation	8
1.2	Sept. 12	God's Redemptive Plan	16
1.3	Sept. 19	Offering Our Best	24
1.4	Sept. 26	Obedience to God's Word	32
1.5	Oct. 3	Worshiping the One True God	40

## Series 2:

### A Voice in the Wilderness

2.1	Oct. 10	What God Says Is True	48
2.2	Oct. 17	For His Purpose	56
2.3	Oct. 24	It Will Come to Pass	64
2.4	Oct. 31	A Part of God's Plan	72

## Series 3:

### Praise Ye the Lord

3.1	Nov. 7	Walking in Righteousness	80
3.2	Nov. 14	Our Shepherd	88
3.3	Nov. 21	A Clean Heart	96
3.4	Nov. 28	Created to Worship	104

#### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor in Chief:** Robin Johnston

**Associate Editor, Curriculum:** Lee Ann Alexander

**Adult Editor, Curriculum:** Jonathan McClintock

**WRITERS:** Terry Baughman, John Hanson, Rachel Lugo, Jeremy Painter, Johnnie Peyton

#### LESSON GUIDE

© 2021 Pentecostal Publishing House

36 Research Park Court

Weldon Spring, MO 63304

[www.pentecostalpublishing.com](http://www.pentecostalpublishing.com)

All rights reserved.

Manufactured in USA, September 2021, 6912111.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked "NKJV" are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright© 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Do not reproduce, distribute, or transmit any part of this publication in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods without possessing prior documented approval from Pentecostal Publishing House, a department of the United Pentecostal Church International. To request permission, contact [customerservice@pentecostalpublishing.com](mailto:customerservice@pentecostalpublishing.com).

# HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

## GETTING STARTED

The first page of each lesson gives pertinent information that will be foundational for the teaching of the lesson. Here you will find the Lesson Title, the Lesson Big Idea, the Truth About God, and both the Focus Verses and Lesson Text. In addition, a callout box will either give an overview of the series (the first lesson of each series contains this information) or will connect students with their daily devotional activity from the previous week.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

SERIES I: IN THE BEGINNING

# 1.1

## PURPOSE IN CREATION

**LESSON BIG IDEA**  
I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

**FOCUS VERSES**  
Genesis 22:4-6  
"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 soul."  
And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

**LESSON TEXT**  
Genesis 2:1-9  
18-25


**TRUTH ABOUT GOD**  
God desires to have relationships with humanity.

**Series Overview:**  
This series, "In the Beginning," will cover four hallmark events found at the beginning of the Bible: Creation, the Fall, Noah's obedience, and the Tower of Babel. As you teach, highlight both the majesty of God's creation and the disobedience of humanity in turning from God. In addition, focus on the message that God's plan is perfect, and He still offers hope to humanity.



### LESSON CONNECTION

The aging patriarch stepped out into an open field and peered deep into the blackness of the night sky. Countless stars stretched as far as his eyes could see. He had tried to count them all before, but the promise of his posterity outnumbering the stars caused him to pause and question, "How can this be?" He didn't dispute the promise, but he did question how it could possibly be fulfilled in his lifetime. The Lord had promised, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 22:18). Abraham was neither the first nor the last to ask probing questions of eternal significance.

Throughout time, philosophers, poets, prophets, and people from all walks of life have asked questions bigger than their ability to comprehend. Where did we come from? How did we get here? When did life begin? Why are we here? People have also come up with some rather imaginative answers to their questions—from mythological gods fighting like children and coveting in their passions to produce a progeny on earth to random accidents and cosmic explosions that miraculously manufactured a perfect environment in which life-forms magically appeared. Embracing some of those explanations requires more faith than to believe the long-accepted view of Creation as recorded in Scripture. 

**Teacher Option:**  
Show Video to help illustrate this Lesson Connection.

The Bible tells us the command of God's voice made matter and energy emerge when He said, "Let there be . . ." Countless millions of stars appeared as burning solar flares in the vastness of eternal space. At His word planets swirled into their orbits, and comets blazed trails through timeless trajectories. Earth spun into a perfect sphere and began its rotation at the perfect speed, allowing a balance of both gravity and centrifugal force, making provision for the free movement of living beings God would create. Earth's atmosphere provided a perpetual canopy of protection from solar radiation but allowed sufficient transmission of light to provide warmth and an abundance of vegetation through photosynthesis. The planet's defined revolution around the sun charted a path for seasons and cycles. It marked the days and set time in order so God's ultimate purpose would be fulfilled.

For Christians, the biblical account of Creation is not only believable, but it is the authoritative version of events explaining our origin. The scriptural record was never intended to be a comprehensive narrative of historical chronology, but rather a theological synopsis of God's plan for the crowning glory of His creation, humanity. God has an incredible purpose for every individual born into this wonderful world.

## LESSON CONNECTION

Most often the Lesson Connection will be a story or illustration designed to give students a glimpse of the overall theme of the lesson. Since stories often appeal to the heart and emotions, this portion of the lesson seeks to engage the heart so the mind is open to receive the truth that will be taught.


## SG TEACHING OUTLINE

The SG (Small Group) Teaching Outline is the lesson content in outline form. Each lesson main point is listed along with suggested discussion questions. Although the outline can be used to teach the lesson in a large group setting, the "SG" indicates the content is also designed to be used in a Small Group. Because of this, an icebreaker question has been provided to help jumpstart interaction in the Small Group meeting. A companion piece for Small Group participants can be found on the last page of each week of material in the student Daily Devotional Guide.

LESSON 11

### SG TEACHING OUTLINE

**Icebreaker:** What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited? How is God's creative majesty on display there?

**Lesson Connection:** Share the Lesson Connection on page 9. 

**I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATION**  
» How did you derive your beliefs about our origin? Have your views changed over the years? Explain.

A. Creation Was Not a Random Act of God  
B. God Had A Specific Purpose for Everything He Created  
» Is there something you have seen or somewhere you have visited that caused you to marvel at God's incredible creativity? Explain.

**II. GOD DESIRES TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY**  
A. God Cares for All of His Creation  
B. God Breathed on Man and Gave Him Life  
» In what ways would people act differently if they believed in God as the Creator and as the moral authority over all humanity?  
C. Only Man Became a Living Soul  
» In what ways are we responsible for the Earth and its many creatures?

**III. GOD CREATED THE WORLD WITH HUMANITY IN MIND**  
A. God Created Everything, Knowing Man and Woman Would Live on the Earth  
B. Everything Created on a Specific Day Needed Everything Created on the Previous Days (I)  
» What is our purpose in the earth and what is our responsibility to God?  
C. I Can Develop a Fulfilling Relationship with God Because He Has Given Me Everything I Need

**Internalizing the Message**

**Prayer Focus**  
Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:  
• Offering praise to God for Creation and His wonderful works  
• Giving thanks for God's provision

10

# LESSON COMMENTARY

The Lesson Commentary is a manuscript of the entire lesson. The lessons are written by various Apostolic authors who not only skillfully explain the truths of Scripture but also share ways in which we can apply these truths to our lives. The Lesson Commentary contains discussion questions to stimulate thought and media callouts (videos and images) to connect with students of all learning styles.

PURPOSE IN CREATION

### INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

In a fairy tale, everything is unpredictable. The princess approaches a tree, and the tree might end up talking, she's kind to a load, who might turn out to be a prince. But what happens when the princess has figured out her world? Houses made of sweets no longer surprise her. Is it still a fairy-tale world? If not, why not? Has anything changed about the world? No. The only thing that has changed is in her.

We need a certain degree of predictability to get through life. Usually, the better we are at anticipating what comes next, the better we are at what we do. But for all the skill we develop in predicting and regulating life, there's a cost: we lose the capacity to be surprised. As children, the world surprised us—constantly; and for many, it is no coincidence that they look back on their childhood and feel they've lost something valuable. Life seemed more enchanted then. There is an inverse relationship between being skillful and being able to be surprised. And we've traded wonder for predictability. In truth, the world hasn't changed since we were children. It is we who have changed.

Have you ever looked at a giraffe? We mock the notion of a unicorn, calling it a "fantasy." And indeed, it seems to have been entirely the work of human imagination. But let's not assume that the unicorn doesn't exist because it is too fantastical and unreal. If we're denying the existence of things on the basis of a thing looking "unreal" what should we say of the long-necked giraffe? The most amazing thing about it is that it looks as if it shouldn't exist. But somehow it does.

In your wildest imaginations, in your most imaginative fancies, you could not come up with a world stranger and more enchanting than the world in which you now live. If we're not careful, adulthood puts us in paradoxical danger of being blinded by the very skill that is supposed to come as the result of having better sight: The ability to be awed by creation doesn't have to be jettisoned as we mature, any more than love has to leave once a man has become familiar with his wife. Wonder, like love, can mature. Our task is to strip away the jaded callouses that have attached themselves to our outlook. How can we encourage one another to behold with fresh wonder God's creation? And once this sense of wonder is restored, we may be in a far better position to ask: If creation is this awe-inducing, how much more the Creator?



15

## LEGEND

The Following icons and boxes are used throughout to aid leaders in navigating the content.

- Contains a suggested discussion question
- Gives direction regarding a media callout that is available

- SG** Signals the information can be used in a Small Group setting.
- V** Shows a video component is available to help illustrate the lesson information.
- I** Indicates an image is available to help illustrate the lesson information.

## LESSON COMMENTARY

### I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATION

How many of us can quote Genesis 1? No doubt we believe God created the universe, but do we stop to appreciate the wonder of that truth? God made what He made out of the sheer joy of creating. And His joy over creation was infectious. The sons of God, says the Book of Job, "shouted for joy" when the foundations of the earth were being laid (Job 38:7). As a mother puts a bow in her daughter's hair, not to make her pretty, but because she's pretty already, God decorated the heavens and the earth not out of pure necessity, but rather out of a boundless love for what He had made.

How did you derive your beliefs about our origins? Have your views changed over the years? Explain.

### A. Creation Was Not a Random Act of God

Someone suggested the Big Bang theory of Creation would be akin to an ETS tornado ripping up a salvage yard filled with acres of car parts, only to end up with a gleaming, beautifully restored classic automobile emerging from the debris field. Never has such a thing happened in the aftermath of a storm. Neither did our planet emerge from some cataclysmic explosion of space matter. Random destruction has never created order. Chaos has never produced perfection.

At the very least, serious scientists must agree that some prime mover (a concept first advanced by Aristotle), some higher power, some intelligent designer was at work in the elaborate scheme of Creation. By definition, creation necessitates a creator.

### B. God Had A Specific Purpose for Everything He Created

Some assembly required can be a somewhat misleading statement on the box of a child's new bicycle. Parents often scramble through the cryptic instructions and insufficient illustrations, trying to put all the parts in place, only to have a few extra pieces left over once the project appears to be completed. They always hope the extra parts were not essential or important for the safe operation of the bike.

When God spoke words of creative force, every command contained divine purpose. Creation was not a cosmic experiment so He could see what would eventually ensue. No extra and unnecessary parts scattered the landscape. Every aspect of creation conjoins in symbiotic relationship. All life-forms are complementary. Everything that exists in some way supports other life-forms by its existence.

If God had such a grand purpose in the microbes and unseen elements of creation, why would He not have an equally grand and even greater purpose for the crowning glory of His creation? People have purpose. Humans lead the created order in intelligence, and all are intended to serve a greater cause.

# INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

The end of each lesson will offer a summary of the lesson's content. At times specific actions will be suggested to apply the lesson content. The goal of each lesson is not just to share biblical information, but to show what must be done with the information and challenge students to apply God's Word to their lives.

## WHAT IT IS

---



Every leader should have tools to help with the vital mission of ensuring spiritual growth for your group or class. My Growth Toolkit is a full-service web-based portal to empower leaders in the teaching ministry of the church. It features growth tracking, record keeping, and management tools for groups or classes as well as training materials and special features to help everyone stay more connected and pursue spiritual growth.

## HOW TO USE IT

---

Purchase a membership at [www.mygrowthtoolkit.com](http://www.mygrowthtoolkit.com). Logging in is as simple as creating an account based on the email address you used to purchase your subscription. You can survey the training videos, set up your groups and classes, and get started managing your church's growth track.

## RESOURCES FOR LEADERS

---

My Growth Toolkit offers a full array of resources to help lead your group effectively including:

- **Attendance Tracking and Reporting:** After a one-time setup to enter the members of your group or class, you can quickly take attendance each session with a few simple clicks. You then can access reports on missing participants for follow-up.
- **Save Group Member Records:** To care for your group, enter notes in each member's records. Then you can quickly pull up a record and review all the information you've saved rather than relying on mental notes about your group.
- **Easy Access to Digital Curriculum:** View digital versions of God's Word for Life you purchase, and license this material for others to access as well (based on the number of licenses purchased).
- **Individual Assessments to Track Spiritual Growth:** Encourage group members to take the Spiritual Growth Assessment (either anonymously or with their names attached) so you can see strengths and areas needing attention for your group. Then track progress each quarter as the group grows in their daily study of God's Word.
- **Leader Assessments:** In addition to your spiritual growth assessment, take the self-assessment to identify your strengths and areas in need of attention as leader of your group or class. Review the results and use them to bolster your effectiveness in discipling those in your care.
- **Training:** Access training resources in My Growth Toolkit to help you grow as a leader in ministering to your group or class.

Visit [www.mygrowthtoolkit.com](http://www.mygrowthtoolkit.com) for more information and to access any digital resources of God's Word for Life you have purchased.

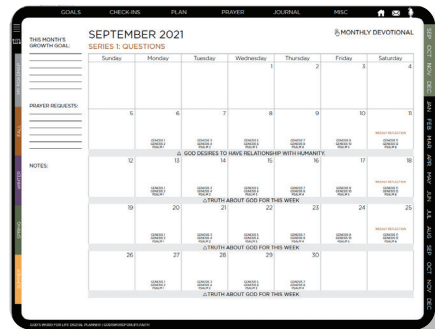
## DIGITAL RESOURCE KIT



The Resource Kit offers a wide array of materials to help expand the impact of each lesson. From videos that inspire discussion to social media tools to help encourage adults to join your group or class, this kit provides tools to help leaders grow their group and make teaching time more effective.

## DIGITAL PLANNER

Make plans, set goals, develop spiritual habits, and evaluate your daily, monthly, and yearly progress, all in the context of God's Word for Life. This annual digital planner helps adults organize their lives around God's Word, engage with specific portions of the God's Word for Life materials, and pursue the goals, dreams, and desires God has placed in their hearts.



## PODCAST



The God's Word for Life Podcast presents portions of Scripture with fresh insight and urges adults to think deeply about how the Bible impacts their lives. Each week episodes will encourage listeners to engage with God's Word through reflection and prayer, further develop their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and live out God's Word in their lives.

### CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@GodsWordforLife



@GodsWordforLife



@GWFLife



## 11

## PURPOSE IN CREATION

**LESSON BIG IDEA**

I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

**FOCUS VERSES****Genesis 2:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> 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 soul.

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

**LESSON TEXT**

**Genesis 2:1-9,  
18-25**

**TRUTH ABOUT GOD**

God desires to have relationship with humanity.

**Series Overview:**

This series, “In the Beginning,” will cover four hallmark events found at the beginning of the Bible: Creation, the Fall, Noah’s obedience, and the Tower of Babel. As you teach, highlight both the majesty of God’s creation and the disobedience of humanity in turning from God. In addition, focus on the message that God’s plan is perfect, and He still offers hope to humanity.

# LESSON CONNECTION

---

The aging patriarch stepped out into an open field and peered deep into the blackness of the night sky. Countless stars stretched as far as his eyes could see. He had tried to count them all before, but the promise of his posterity outnumbering the stars caused him to pause and question, “How can this be?” He didn’t dispute the promise, but he did question how it could possibly be fulfilled in his lineage. The Lord had promised, “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 22:18). Abraham was neither the first nor the last to ask probing questions of eternal significance.

Throughout time, philosophers, poets, prophets, and people from all walks of life have asked questions bigger than their ability to comprehend. Where did we come from? How did we get here? When did life begin? Why are we here? People have also come up with some rather imaginative answers to their questions—from mythological gods fighting like children and cavorting in their passions to produce a progeny on earth to random accidents and cosmic explosions that miraculously manufactured a perfect environment in which life-forms magically appeared. Embracing some of those explanations requires more faith than to believe the long-accepted view of Creation as recorded in Scripture. **V**

The Bible tells us the command of God’s voice made matter and energy emerge when He said, “Let there be . . .” Countless millions of stars appeared as burning solar flares in the vastness of eternal space. At His word planets swirled into their orbits, and comets blazed trails through timeless trajectories. Earth spun into a perfect sphere and began its rotation at the perfect speed, allowing a balance of both gravity and centrifugal force, making provision for the free movement of living beings God would create. Earth’s atmosphere provided a perpetual canopy of protection from solar radiation but allowed sufficient transmission of light to provide warmth and an abundance of vegetation through photosynthesis. The planet’s defined revolution around the sun charted a path for seasons and cycles. It marked the days and set time in order so God’s ultimate purpose would be fulfilled.

For Christians, the biblical account of Creation is not only believable, but it is the authoritative version of events explaining our origin. The scriptural record was never intended to be a comprehensive narrative of historical chronology, but rather a theological synopsis of God’s plan for the crowning glory of His creation, humanity. God has an incredible purpose for every individual born into this wonderful world.

**Teacher Option:**

*Show Video to help illustrate this Lesson Connection.*

## **SG** TEACHING OUTLINE

**Icebreaker:** What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited? How is God's creative majesty on display there?

**Lesson Connection:** Share the Lesson Connection on page 9. **V**

### I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATION

» *How did you derive your beliefs about our origin? Have your views changed over the years? Explain.*

A. Creation Was Not a Random Act of God

B. God Had A Specific Purpose for Everything He Created

» *Is there something you have seen or somewhere you have visited that caused you to marvel at God's incredible creativity? Explain.*

### II. GOD DESIRES TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY

A. God Cares for All of His Creation

B. God Breathed on Man and Gave Him Life

» *In what ways would people act differently if they believed in God as the Creator and as the moral authority over all humanity?*

C. Only Man Became a Living Soul

» *In what ways are we responsible for the Earth and its many creatures?*

### III. GOD CREATED THE WORLD WITH HUMANITY IN MIND

A. God Created Everything, Knowing Man and Woman Would Live on the Earth

B. Everything Created on a Specific Day Needed Everything Created on the Previous Days **I**

» *What is our purpose in the earth and what is our responsibility to God?*

C. I Can Develop a Fulfilling Relationship with God Because He Has Given Me Everything I Need



### **Internalizing the Message**

#### **Prayer Focus**

Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

- Offering praise to God for Creation and His wonderful works
- Giving thanks for God's provision

# LESSON COMMENTARY

## I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATION

How many of us can quote Genesis 1:1? No doubt we believe God created the universe, but do we stop to appreciate the wonder of that truth? God made what He made out of the sheer joy of creating. And His joy over creation was infectious. The sons of God, says the Book of Job, “shouted for joy” when the foundations of the earth were being laid (Job 38:7). As a mother puts a bow in her daughter’s hair, not to make her pretty, but because she’s pretty already, God decorated the heavens and the earth not out of pure necessity, but rather out of a boundless love for what He had made.

*How did you derive your beliefs about our origin? Have your views changed over the years? Explain.*

### A. Creation Was Not a Random Act of God

Someone suggested the Big Bang theory of Creation would be akin to an EF5 tornado ripping up a salvage yard filled with acres of car parts, only to end up with a gleaming, beautifully restored classic automobile emerging from the debris field. Never has such a thing happened in the aftermath of a storm. Neither did our planet emerge from some cataclysmic explosion of space matter. Random destruction has never created order. Chaos has never produced perfection.

At the very least, serious scientists must agree that some prime mover (a concept first advanced by Aristotle), some higher power, some intelligent designer was at work in the elaborate scheme of Creation. By definition, creation necessitates a creator.

### B. God Had A Specific Purpose for Everything He Created

*Some assembly required* can be a somewhat misleading statement on the box of a child’s new bicycle. Parents often scramble through the cryptic instructions and insufficient illustrations, trying to put all the parts in place, only to have a few extra pieces left over once the project appears to be completed. They always hope the extra parts were not essential or important for the safe operation of the bike.

When God spoke words of creative force, every command contained divine purpose. Creation was not a cosmic experiment so he could see what would eventually ensue. No extra and unnecessary parts scattered the landscape. Every aspect of creation conjoins in symbiotic relationship. All life-forms are complementary. Everything that exists in some way supports other life-forms by its existence.

If God had such a grand purpose in the microbes and unseen elements of creation, why would He not have an equally grand and even greater purpose for the crowning glory of His creation? People have purpose. Humans lead the created order in intelligence, and all are intended to serve a greater cause.

*Is there something you have seen or somewhere you have visited that caused you to marvel at God's incredible creativity? Explain.*

Some people are not more essential or less essential than others. Rather, each one is valued. All are precious in His sight, and He has a plan for every human life.

## II. GOD DESIRES TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY

If a single living cell were built to a scale of ten square miles, we would see a whole city—a whole galaxy—teeming with life, busier than New York City at rush hour, more complex than a microchip. We have not even yet contemplated the universe at the subatomic level. The very vastness and beauty of the universe can actually lure the human mind into a misunderstanding about its Creator.

### A. God Cares for All of His Creation

It is easy to assume that God is too great and mysterious to attend to small matters. But this kind of thinking is distinctly human. We look at the grandeur of heaven—the celestial lights, the staggering distance from here to there—and then project our limitations onto God. We all know what it is like to feel unimportant, but we make a mistake about God when we infer from the grandness of the universe that He too must have better things to do.

The truth is, it is not in the vastness of the universe that we see the vastness of God. From a spider's perspective, we humans, with our stadiums and skyscrapers, must seem awfully big. Nothing in this universe is truly "big." Largeness and smallness are relative terms. A star is big, until it is compared to a galaxy. A mountain is big, until it is compared to a star. A tree is big, until it is compared to a mountain. We cannot determine what God values simply by measuring and comparing magnitudes.

God is not great because He is infinitely big; He is great because He is infinitely present. And the exactness of His creation—the attention to matters that might seem unimportant to us—reveals this truth. How vast must the Holy One's "attention span" be to attend, if you will, the sparrow's funeral, or make a mathematical recalculation every time a hair falls from the head of one of the eight billion human beings who are alive today?

The insignificance we often feel stands in stark contrast to the pride God takes in us, His children. What is man that God is mindful of us? It's hard to say exactly. But God's behavior toward us—His infinite love, the gift of His presence, and the fact that He became a man Himself—tells us all we need to know.

### B. God Breathed on Man and Gave Him Life

Humans were created on the sixth day of Creation. God formed a man from the dirt. Then God breathed life into the still form of His design, "And man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7).

God has given life, and only God's timing should cause its conclusion. Creation gives value to every living soul. If we were the product of random evolution, humans would have no quantitative value; lives would be expendable, without accountability, and retribution would be unnecessary. However, because people are created and designed in the image of God, every individual has intrinsic value, and we are all reflections of our Creator.

### C. Only Man Became a Living Soul

Not only did Adam live and breathe, but unique to creation, he was given a spiritual core, a living soul. The breath of God made this creation unlike any animal or created thing. All others were spoken into existence by the word of God. However, the first man was fashioned by the hand of God, and life was breathed into him by the Spirit of God.

While some maintain that the *soul* is merely a synonym for life, the distinction in Scripture becomes more apparent. Others in the animal kingdom have intellect, reflect emotions, and learn skills from their environment, but no other creature was made in God's image and so carefully designed with His thoughtful attention. Though some animals are stronger, humans have been able to tame and train them. A variety of animals have adapted to adverse environmental challenges, but humans have been able to devise shelter and have survived in almost every environment.

The uniqueness of humanity was established from the beginning. We have a responsibility to other human beings. We also are responsible to wisely use all the resources with which the earth has been enriched.

## III. GOD CREATED THE WORLD WITH HUMANITY IN MIND

Once the idea that God has created the world is granted, the message is quite clear. There are no language barriers to understanding creation's sermon. Its purpose is not to point to itself, but away from itself to something else. Creation points us toward God, and the world becomes a virtual symphony, praising its Creator. We might even call the world the great "matchmaker," setting up a place for us to meet God. A matchmaker isn't supposed to become the object of love himself; he is supposed to bring lovers together. Likewise, the world, as the great matchmaker, isn't our ultimate partner. As the lily among the thorns reminded the lover of his beloved in Song of Songs (2:2), so was the world made to remind us of God. And, in this world of wonders, that is the most wonderful thing about the world.

### A. God Created Everything, Knowing Man and Woman Would Live on the Earth

The master plan in the mind of our Maker included everything in nature necessary for the continuance of life. God placed humanity in a prepared place. The oxygen levels would be maintained at the

*In what ways would people act differently if they believed in God as the Creator and as the moral authority over all humanity?*

*In what ways are we responsible for the Earth and its many creatures?*

right levels. Adequate seasons would regulate temperatures and synchronize the cycles of growth and harvest, producing fruits and vegetables in abundance for all living creatures. Ultimately, God methodically and purposefully prepared everything for humanity. All was designed to bring quality to our lives and sustenance for our continued well-being.

God knows the end from the beginning and has methodically prepared everything for the length of our days. Natural resources are in abundance. We should value our resources and conserve our supply as we care for our environment, but we can live free from fear and dread of what could happen a thousand years in the future.

**Teacher Option:**  
Show Image of the  
Days of Creation  
chart.

### **B. Everything Created on a Specific Day Needed Everything Created on the Previous Days**

The days of Creation were building blocks of strategic design. **I**

“Let there be light,” God said. Those were the first words at the dawn of Creation. And the light sustained the elements of the subsequent days of Creation. The waters and atmosphere were next, and elements were divided to hold their places and respect their boundaries. Day and night, water and sky, and then the earth and seas were designed for fruitfulness, all within the first three days of Creation.

In the next three days, God continued to populate and detail the elements of Creation. He gave us heavenly bodies to harness the light, reflecting it throughout the heavens—the sun abundantly lighting the day and the moon and millions of stars filling the night sky. The waters were filled with fish and all manner of aquatic life, and fowl filled the air as they scattered throughout the earth. By the sixth day of Creation, vegetation was already prepared for the cattle, and creatures of the earth began consuming their nutrition. The culmination of Creation was the design of the first man, Adam. Everything was prepared for the sustenance of life and for humanity’s pleasure.

*What is our  
purpose in the  
earth and what is  
our responsibility  
to God?*

*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (Genesis 2:2 NKJV)*

### **C. I Can Develop a Fulfilling Relationship with God Because He Has Given Me Everything I Need**

God has provided everything we need to grow in relationship with Him. Through the church we have fellowship with other believers and find the strength and encouragement we need in times of difficulty. We have received the divine Word of Truth to guide us and order our steps. The privilege of prayer has been placed at our disposal, so we can communicate with our heavenly Father. And He has given us His Spirit, so we may possess the power to live as overcomers. Every good and perfect gift has been given to us from above.

## INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

In a fairy tale, everything is unpredictable. The princess approaches a tree, and the tree might end up talking; she's kind to a toad, who might turn out to be a prince. But what happens when the princess has figured out her world? Houses made of sweets no longer surprise her. Is it still a fairy-tale world? If not, why not? Has anything changed about the world? No. The only thing that has changed is in her.

We need a certain degree of predictability to get through life. Usually, the better we are at anticipating what comes next, the better we are at what we do. But for all the skill we develop in predicting and regulating life, there's a cost: we lose the capacity to be surprised. As children, the world surprised us—constantly; and for many, it is no coincidence that they look back on their childhood and feel they've lost something valuable. Life seemed more enchanted then. There is an inverse relationship between being skillful and being able to be surprised. And we've traded wonder for predictability. In truth, the world hasn't changed since we were children. It is we who have changed.

Have you ever looked at a giraffe? We mock the notion of a unicorn, calling it a "fantasy." And indeed, it seems to have been entirely the work of human imagination. But let's not assume that the unicorn doesn't exist because it is too fantastical and unreal. If we're denying the existence of things on the basis of a thing looking "unreal," what should we say of the long-necked giraffe? The most amazing thing about it is that it looks as if it shouldn't exist. But somehow it does.

In your wildest imaginations, in your most imaginative fancies, you could not come up with a world stranger and more enchanting than the world in which you now live. If we're not careful, adulthood puts us in paradoxical danger of being blinded by the very skill that is supposed to come as the result of having better sight. The ability to be awed by creation doesn't have to be jettisoned as we mature, any more than love has to leave once a man has become familiar with his wife. Wonder, like love, can mature. Our task is to strip away the jaded callouses that have attached themselves to our outlook. How can we encourage one another to behold with fresh wonder God's creation? And once this sense of wonder is restored, we may be in a far better position to ask: If creation is this awe-inducing, how much more the Creator?

