

LESSON 1:

GOD SPECIALLY CREATED MANKIND

TEXT: GENESIS 1-2



CENTRAL TRUTH:

GOD PERSONALLY AND SPECIALLY CREATED MANKIND

MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 1:26 – Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”



BONUS VERSES:

Job 33:4 – The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Psalms 119:73 – Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.



NEXT WEEK:

GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS IMAGE

LESSON 1 SUMMARY & COMMENTARY

SUMMARY:

God showed His eternal, powerful, and good character when He spoke all of creation into existence in just six days. God created all that is not alive as well as all plants and creatures, big and small, that live in every place of the earth. God then finished the sixth day of creation by specially creating man. Unlike with anything else, man was formed from the dust—God personally fashioned and breathing life into him. Mankind is specially created by God.

COMMENTARY

Beginnings are uniquely exciting. The start of a book, the birth of a new baby, and the beginning of summer all bring special delight to most people. Beginnings are also uniquely intriguing. For countless years, people have wondered about the beginning of mankind. What was the world like at the beginning? Where did man come from? Has the world always looked as it does now? The Bible tells the true story of the beginning of mankind and the world. It reveals that God personally created all things, and that He made man His special and most important creation.

1. God SHOWED HIS CHARACTER (Gen 1:1)

Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and its name means “beginnings.” The Bible is the right place for mankind to learn about the beginning since only God was present then—He is the only one qualified to explain how creation happened. Genesis’ record of the beginning repeatedly puts God and His character on display.

The **creation** story reveals foundational truths about who God is and what He is like.

a. He Is Eternal

Genesis 1:1 starts with the words, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” The first revelation from the creation story is that God existed before creation (John 1:1–3; 17:5, 24). “The beginning” refers to the start of creation’s history, or the first moments of the universe’s existence. Before the beginning, God already existed because He is eternal (2 Tim 1:9; Titus 1:2).

Genesis does not attempt to prove this reality. It simply states the fact of God’s eternal existence. God existed before the world ever did.

b. He Is Powerful

A second wonderful truth the creation account teaches about God is that God is powerful. The God who has always existed created the whole entire world. God made the heavens, which includes the sky and outer space (Gen 1:6–8, 14–19; Pss 8:3; 19:1–6), as well as the earth (Gen 1:9–13, 20–27),



CREATION:

Ask several students to make various objects (flowers, a dog, etc.) from Play-Doh. Then ask other volunteers to make the same, but don’t give them any Play-Doh. Explain that unlike God, we cannot create objects out of nothing; we can only make or shape objects from material that already exists.

which includes every single thing in our world.

God did not create a chaotic universe and leave it to somehow form everything: from planetary bodies to plants and animals on earth. Instead, the Lord was **purposeful** in creating the heavens and the earth and all they contain. Only a powerful God (Ps 62:11) could create everything that exists (Rev 4:11).

c. He Is Good

Genesis 1 also shows that God is good. As Moses chronicled the days of creation, he wrote that God finished each day with the same conclusion. Throughout the week of creation, God looked at what He had made and saw that it was good (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). When He looked at all He had done, God viewed all of His creation as very good (v31). God's creation was wonderful and unblemished, and only a good God (Ps 106:1; Matt 5:48) can make a good creation. **God is the standard for good and bad, and He authoritatively revealed that He is good and His creation was good.**

God is gracious to show us what He is like because mankind does not deserve to know God due to our wickedness. No one could require God to teach us about Him. Instead, He showed His character in the creation story because of His gracious kindness. Also, without God's personal revelation mankind could never figure out what is true about God. Instead of leaving His creation in the dark about who created us, God had Moses write Genesis to reveal His amazing character.

2. God SPOKE CREATION into Existence (Gen 1:2-25)

As it unfolds God's character, the creation story also details how God created all things. In six actual days, God made everything that exists. God made everything that does not live, as well as plants and animals, simply by speaking. Creation happened just by God saying words. He did not combine ingredients like making a cake or manipulate materials like carving a statue. He simply spoke, and creation came into existence. **With just His will, God made everything that lives as well as everything that does not.**

a. Everything That's Not Alive

On the first day of creation, God made the earth (Gen 1:1-2), light, and darkness (vv3-4). God called the light "Day" and the darkness "Night" (v5). On the second day, God made the sky (vv6-8), and on the third day He made land distinct from the water. God called the land "Earth" and the water "Seas" (vv9-10). On day four, God made the sun, moon, and stars (vv14-19). From outer space to the earth we live on, God made every non-living thing out of nothing just by speaking (Ps 33:6, 9).

b. Everything That Is Alive

God began making earth's living things on day three. He first made plants grow on earth (Gen 1:11), then on day five created all flying and water-dwelling creatures (vv20-23). Finally, on day six God made all the creatures that live on land (vv24-25).

PURPOSEFUL:

Bring in a box of jigsaw puzzle pieces, and ask the class if the pieces will assemble themselves. Compare this to how God purposefully created the universe. Not only did God form the "pieces" of Adam together, He is the one who created that material to begin with!

LESSON 1 COMMENTARY CONT.



God Himself made all living things by speaking, including plants and animals, sea-dwellers and those that live on land. The Bible credits God for personally creating all things. In fact, it shows all three persons of the Godhead actively involved in creation (Gen 1:2, 26; John 1:1–3).

3. God SPECIALLY CREATED MANKIND (Gen 2:7, 21–22)



After creating the universe, earth, plants, and animals, God had one final plan. He decided to make man. Unlike with the rest of creation, God made man and woman uniquely. Instead of speaking them into existence, God specially formed them. Genesis 1:26–27 reveals that God created man and woman on the sixth day, but chapter 2 gives more details about this *special* creation.

a. God Formed Man from Dust

The first human God created was a man. Moses wrote that God formed man out of the dust of the ground (Gen 2:7). God used earth, which He had already created, to make the first human. Instead of speaking out of nothing as with all the rest of creation, God used dirt as the raw material to make man. Like a masterful sculptor or an amazing artist, God formed man in a special act of creation (Ps 119:73).

After shaping man's body exactly the way He wanted it to be, God breathed into man's nose, giving Adam the *breath of life* (Gen 2:7). God's breath made man come to life. No longer was man just a lump of dirt; now he was God's special and valuable creation, hand formed by God and set apart over all the rest of creation (1:26). God's breath made man become a living soul (Job 33:4). This act distinguishes man from all other creatures. Only man became a living soul, and only man received God's direct, nonverbal attention in creation.

Advances in science have confirmed how amazing all of God's creation is, especially mankind. The study of DNA, chromosomes, and other areas of genetics confirm mankind's uniqueness among all of God's creation. The Lord's ability to take dust and form it into a *complex* human being from which every person in all of history descends truly puts God on display and makes Him worthy of being worshiped.

b. God Formed Woman from Man

"Adam" was the name of the first man God created. God gave Adam work to do, like naming all the animals. God knew, however,



SPECIAL:

Bring in different stuffed animals, and show them one by one to your students. Then line up the stuffed animals, and ask the students if people are the same as animals. Explain that people are *not* like animals because God specially created mankind apart from the rest of creation.



THE BREATH OF LIFE:

Display an inflatable animal, then have the students watch while you blow into it. Ask them what will happen when you drop it; then let it fall. Did the animal begin talking and thinking? Behaving like a person? No—we can't give the breath of life to anyone or anything. But God did exactly that with Adam.

that it was not good for Adam to be alone (Gen 2:18). Adam needed a helper, a person like him and especially suited for him. Though there were plenty of animals around Adam, there were no other people. Adam needed a human companion, so God made a woman.

God created woman in a special and direct way, just as He had Adam. God made Adam go to sleep (v21), but it was no ordinary sleep. Adam's sleep was so deep that he could not feel pain. God personally took out a piece of Adam's flesh, then closed the wound in his side. From Adam's rib, God made a woman (v22). The man woke up, and God brought the woman to him. Adam recognized that this new person was made from his own body, so he called her woman (v23) and named her Eve (3:20). Though God made man and woman from materials He had already created earlier, He still personally created both of them.

By so specially creating man and woman, God set them apart from and above the rest of creation. The additional details Scripture provides about man's creation, as well as its focus on human history throughout, confirm that God places a special value on humanity. As the Creator, God had every right to make man His most important creation. And the Lord established a **personal connection** with mankind by the way He uniquely created man.

Tragically, many people today reject the story of creation. They teach instead that man evolved, changing over millions of years through the survival of the fittest. The theories of cosmic- and macroevolution reject the reality that God exists and that He created all things. They choose to imagine the beginning of the world instead of trusting God's true account of it. Such theories not only reject God, they also remove people's ability to understand our true origin by making them trust in error.

In an amazing display of His greatness, God created mankind and all things. But the story of the beginning of man is primarily a story about God. In the beginning, God created man. **As God's creation, mankind should worship and respect the one who created them.**



COMPLEX:

Explain that each human has 46 chromosomes which hold all the information that makes us look and sound and think so different. Show a large textbook and explain that it would take ~184,000 such books to contain the information in a person's total number of chromosomes. God made mankind complex!



PERSONAL CONNECTION:

Show the students a toy structure you built, highlighting some of its interesting features. Then tell them the reason you're excited to show it to them is because you made it yourself. Likewise, God has a special connection to mankind because, unlike the rest of creation, He specially shaped us.



LESSON 1 OUTLINE & HIGHLIGHTS

LESSON OUTLINE & HIGHLIGHTS:

1. God SHOWED HIS CHARACTER (Gen 1:1)

- The creation story reveals foundational truths about who God is and what He is like.
 - a. He Is Eternal
 - b. He Is Powerful
 - c. He Is Good
- God is the standard for good and bad, and He authoritatively revealed that He is good and His creation was good.

2. God SPOKE CREATION into Existence (Gen 1:2-25)

- With just His will, God made everything that lives as well as everything that does not.
 - a. Everything That's Not Alive
 - b. Every That Is Alive
- God Himself made all living things by speaking, including plants and animals, sea-dwellers and those that live on land.

3. God SPECIALLY CREATED MANKIND (Gen 2:7, 21-22)

- Unlike with the rest of creation, God made man and woman uniquely.
 - a. God Formed Man from Dust
 - b. God Formed Woman from Man

- As God's creation, mankind should worship and respect the one who created them.

NOTES:



SPOTLIGHT ON THE GOSPEL:

Adam and Eve were God's special creation, but they sinned and subjected all mankind to sin and death. So God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who lived as the perfect man. Believe in Jesus and His accomplishment so you can live in perfect relationship with God forever, as He intended.

LESSON 1 QUESTIONS

LESSON QUESTIONS:

Use multiple choice for younger age groups and discussion answers for older age groups.

1. How long did God take to create the heavens and the earth?

- a. Six months
- b. Billions of years
- c. Six years
- d. **Six days**

Discussion Answer: God created everything in six days. He rested on the seventh and delighted in what He had made.

2. How did God create the heavens and the earth?

- a. Using His hands
- b. **He willed and spoke them into existence**
- c. Using construction equipment
- d. By letting them form themselves

Discussion Answer: God willed that they would be and spoke them into existence.

3. What is God's most unique creation?

- a. Earth
- b. Space
- c. **Mankind**
- d. Animals

Discussion Answer: God's most unique and special creation is mankind, who bears God's own image.

4. How do we know God created the heavens and the earth?

- a. Eyewitnesses
- b. **The Bible says so**
- c. Scientific evidence
- d. Dreams

Discussion Answer: God has told us through His Word that He created all things.

5. What was God's view of His whole creation?

- a. **It was very good**
- b. It was okay
- c. There were a few faults
- d. He saw sin everywhere

Discussion Answer: He saw that it was very good, which indicates that there was no evil or sin in the world.

6. What should our response be to God's creation of mankind?

- a. There is no good response
- b. **Worship**
- c. We should continue in sin
- d. We should live for ourselves

Discussion Answer: We should worship the Lord in all we desire, think, say, and do.