

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Genesis

THE CREATION OF MAN

Genesis 2

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Two

[0020]

AIM: to teach my class that God loves them, by showing them how God made this beautiful world for us to enjoy.

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A can of Play-doh, or a stick of modeling clay for each of your students
 A picture of a beautiful garden, to represent the Garden of Eden
 Pictures of some of the world's beautiful scenery
 Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Do you like to play with Play-doh? So do I! I have some for each of you today, and I want us to do something very special with it. I want each of us to try to make a person with it. Let's see who can do it the fastest...ready....GO!

Now hold your little person in front of you and look at it. Can he walk all by himself? No!

Can he talk? No!

Can he run, play, sit, stand, lie down, or do handstands by himself? No!

Why? Because he is only make-believe, isn't he? It's impossible to take clay and make it into a real person, isn't it?

Well, it is impossible for man to do. But did you know that that is exactly how God made the human race? Let me tell you about it.

STORY: Last week I told you how God made the whole world in six days. Each day God created a different part of this earth. Then on the seventh day, God rested.

Today I am going to tell you what happened on the sixth day. God tells us that after He had made this world—the mountains, the ocean, the trees, the flowers, the grass, the animals, and everything else—God was pleased with all that He had made. But there was one thing missing.

There were apple trees and orange trees, but there was nobody to eat the delicious apples and oranges.

There were beautiful flowers—roses, lilies, tulips and marigolds--but there was nobody to enjoy them.

There were amazing sights to see—snow-capped mountains, foaming ocean waves, rugged, rocky canyons and bountiful green forests—but there was no one to look at those great sights and say, "Wow!"

There were many different kinds of fascinating animals—the huge elephant, the roaring lion, the soaring eagle, the mighty bear—but there was no one to pet them, or to look at them and say, "Awesome!"

There were all of the beautiful things that we enjoy in this world...but there was nobody to enjoy it all.

Of course, this was no mistake, because God does not make mistakes. God had it all planned. God planned to make one very special creature, and all of the rest of His Creation was for that one very special creature to enjoy. The rest of God's Creation was God's gift to His very special creature. So God made the beautiful gift of Creation first—the mountains, the trees, the flowers and the animals—and then last of all God made the very special creature. And do you know who that very special creature was that God made all of this world for? It was the human race...people...you and me! Let's find out how He made us.

The Bible says that God reached down and took a handful of dirt from the earth. He shaped the dirt into the shape of a man. When God had that first man shaped exactly as He wanted him, God breathed His own breath into that man's nose. Because the breath of God is all-powerful, the man that God had made came to life when God breathed on him. Listen to what the Bible says: "*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.*"

God called him *Adam*. Adam was the first man. Adam could walk, talk, run, and work because God had put His own breath in him. God told Adam, "I have a job that I need you to do. I need you to take care of the plants and the animals that I have created. You will be the keeper of the earth." Listen to what the Bible says. "*God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over*

the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Adam was excited about the beautiful earth that God had given him to enjoy, and he was excited about the job that God had made him to do.

Then God decided that while Adam was taking care of the earth, someone would need to take care of Adam. And just as God had to create Adam to do the job of taking care of the earth, God had to create someone to do the job of taking care of Adam. But this time God did not reach to the ground. This time God put Adam to sleep, and God reached into Adam’s side. God took one of Adam’s ribs, and God used that rib to make the person to do the job of taking care of Adam. That person was the first woman, and she was named *Eve*. Listen to what the Bible says: “*And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*” Adam had one less rib in him than Eve had in her.

So God created the first man to do a job. That job was to take care of God’s earth. Then God created the first woman to do a job. That job was to take care of Adam. They lived because they had the breath of God in them. And God made it so that Adam and Eve’s children would have the breath of God in them also.

God loved Adam and Eve. God took Adam and Eve and put them in their brand new home, a perfect place called the *Garden of Eden*. When God created Adam and Eve, there was no sin in the world. Adam and Eve were not created as sinners. Because there was no sin in the earth, there was no death. There was no sickness, no pain, no crying, and no sadness. Can you imagine a world as wonderful as that? That’s what it was like in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve lived. They lived in that perfect place, and they did the job that God had created them to do.

The earth is not a perfect place anymore. It is not a perfect place because man sinned against God. Next Sunday I will tell you the tragic story about how man sinned against God.

But even though the world is not a perfect place anymore, we still have God’s awesome Creation. **Every time you look at some part of God’s awesome Creation, let it remind you of some amazing things about you and your God:**

Let it remind you that just like Adam and Eve had the breath of God in them, you also have the breath of God in you. The breath of God was passed down from Adam and Eve to their children, and they passed it to their children after them, and they passed it to their children after them, and now, 6000 years later, it was passed from your parents to you. What makes this amazing human body work? It is the breath of God that first made Adam and Eve come to life. You are created in God’s image, and you have life from God within you.

When you see God’s awesome Creation, remember this, too: God made all of this for you to enjoy, because He loves you! How many of you have ever seen a big mountain? When you see a mountain, remind yourself, “God made this for me to enjoy, because He loves me!” How many of you have ever been to the zoo and seen wild animals? Next time you go to the zoo, remind yourself, God made all of this for me to enjoy, because He loves me!” Who likes apples or oranges or bananas or strawberries? The next time you eat some delicious fruit, remind yourself, “God made this for me to enjoy, because He loves me!”

And when you see God’s awesome Creation, remember one more thing: God did all of this for me; and I want to do the job that He has for me to do. Since God loves me so much, and has done all of this for me, I want to do whatever He wants me to do. I want to do the everyday jobs that He expects me to do, like obey my parents and clean my room; and I want to do the big, lifelong jobs that He has for me to do. God loves me, and I love Him; I want Him to be pleased with my life.

Let’s learn our memory verse. **Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Genesis

THE CREATION OF MAN

Genesis 2

Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter One, Lesson Two

[0020]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. **MAN IS GOD'S SPECIAL CREATION.** Genesis 2:26-27, 2:7. Man is the only creature that God created to resemble Himself. God created man for Himself, to be in fellowship with Him. Man was formed by the hands of God from the dirt, then given life by the breath of God. Man was God's special creation.
- II. **MAN HAS THE VERY BREATH OF GOD IN HIM.** The breath that gives me life is different than the breath of an animal; the breath that I breathe is the breath of God. It has been passed, through reproduction, to every human being that has ever lived. God gave it to me; only God can take it from me. Scientists cannot explain the wonder of man's first breath or his last; but the Bible makes it clear that both are completely in God's control.
- III. **GOD CREATED THIS AMAZING WORLD TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO MAN.** This amazing, beautiful world that we live in was created as God's "I love you" to man, His special creation. Every beautiful and breathtaking element of creation is God's expression of His love to His most special creation, mankind.
What is the purpose of beauty without someone to behold it? What is the purpose of the lovely scent of a rose without someone to enjoy it? What is the purpose of the amazing taste of an orange without someone to taste it? What is the purpose of the wonders of the animal kingdom without someone to be in awe of it? God made His purpose clear when He completed His amazing work of creation by making man the recipient of this multitude of custom-made gifts.
- IV. **GOD GAVE MAN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE HIM.** Genesis 2:15-17. *The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil* was a creation of God. This tree was not a pre-existing factor that God just had to deal with. It was not an element of creation that was mandated by a higher authority—God is the Highest Authority. God designed this tree with a purpose—to give man the opportunity to choose Him. Without this tree man had no choice, no free will. Without this tree man was just a pre-programmed robot. Without this tree, man was no different than the animals. This tree was man's opportunity to rebel, and therefore it was man's opportunity to obey. This tree facilitated man's free will. This tree would reveal that man had something that the other creatures did not have—a spirit.
- V. **MARRIAGE WAS PART OF GOD'S CREATIVE ACT.** Genesis 2:21-24. God created marriage, just as He created the stars, the trees and the animals. The relationship of husband and wife was designed by God Himself, and should be held in the highest regard by His creatures.

The Creation of Man

Genesis 2:4-25

[0020]

God Describes How He Created the Human Race

I. GENESIS 2:4-6 Man's Occupation

2:5, 1:26-28, 2:15 Man's responsibility was to care for the rest of God's creation

II. GENESIS 2:7 Man's Creation

2:7a God formed man from the dirt

2:7b God breathed His own breath into man

2:7c God made man to become a living soul; life came from God

III. GENESIS 2:8-15 Man's Habitation

2:8 God provides a place for man

2:9 God provides food for man

2: 10-14 God provides water for man

2:15 God brings man to his new home

IV. GENESIS 2:16-17 Man's Volition

2:16 God gives man the ability to choose

2:17a God shows man the one thing that is forbidden

2:17b God warns man of the consequences if he chooses that which is forbidden

V. GENESIS 2:18-25 Man's Companion

2:18 Adam's need for a companion

2:19-20 Adam's task of naming the animals

2:21-22 God creates woman and unites her with Adam

2:23 Adam calls God's new creation Woman

2:23-25 God defines marriage

***Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***

The Creation of Man

Genesis 2

[0020]

Circle the letter next to the correct answer to each question or statement from today's Bible story.

1. God created the whole world in just _____ days.
a. 100 b. 40 c. 6
2. What did God do on the seventh day?
a. He rested b. He started on another world c. He created the moon
3. God's one very special creature was _____ .
a. lions b. people c. elephants
4. All of the rest of God's creation was for mankind to _____ .
a. enjoy b. compete with c. be afraid of
5. God made man from the dust of the _____ .
a. air b. ground c. sea
6. What did God do after he shaped the first man?
a. He threw him out b. He painted him c. He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life
7. What did God call the first man?
a. Al b. Athanasius c. Adam
8. God made the _____ to be Adam's companion.
a. trees b. woman c. alligators
9. The first woman was named _____ .
a. Eve b. Ethel c. Ernestine
10. The garden that God made for Adam and Eve to live in was called what?
a. The Botanical Garden b. The Garden of Goodness c. The Garden of Eden

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God
created he him; male and female created he them.*

GENESIS 1:27

