

In the Beginning

Date: 01.18.26 | We Are Made in the Image of God
Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:18-25

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God made people special, and He made me special, too.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God made me in His image, to know Him, and I am special and valuable to Him.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

God made me special, in His image, to know Him and be loved by Him—because I matter to Him more than anything else He created.

STUDENTS:

God created everything to show His greatness—and He made us to reflect His character, live with purpose, and point others to Him.

ADULTS:

God, as the sovereign Creator, designed all things to reveal His glory. Humanity, as His most cherished creation, is called to embody His character, live intentionally, and lead others toward Him.

MEMORY VERSE

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16–17



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

How and why did God create us? God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

– *New City Catechism question #4*

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



Man was created uniquely from the rest of creation because he was made in the image of God. This truth places humanity in a special relationship with God and sets people apart from everything else He made. In the garden, man was blessed and commanded to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. God added to that blessing the instruction to subdue and rule over the earth (*Genesis 1:28*). Humanity was not simply another part of creation but the pinnacle of it—the crowning work of God’s creative plan.

Our first clue that Adam and Eve would be distinct from the rest of creation is found in God’s words as He prepared to make them. Up until this point in *Genesis 1*, the familiar phrase “Let there be...” echoed through each day of creation. But when God made man, He said something different: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (*Genesis 1:26*). This change reveals both the significance of humanity and the personal care with which God created people. God lovingly created everything and rules over all with providential care, but His relationship with mankind is on a higher level.

Being made in the image of God (*imago Dei*) is something unique to men and women—it is not said of any other part of creation. *Genesis 2:7* describes this moment: “Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” The word ‘formed’ paints a picture of a potter shaping clay into something intentional and beautiful. God not only shaped man’s body from the dust but also breathed into him life—physical, mental, and spiritual. Humanity is the only part of creation to receive the very breath of God.

Being made in the image of God does not mean we are identical to Him, but it does mean that we resemble Him in important ways. We were created to represent God to the rest of creation. Like God, we can think rationally, act morally, and live relationally. We are

intellectual and capable of reasoning and communicating. We have a spiritual nature that allows us to know God personally and respond to Him in love and obedience—something animals cannot do. God also gave humanity authority to steward the earth and care for what He made, reflecting His rule and character.

Both males and females were created in God's image. The word “man” in [Genesis 1:26](#) is best understood as “humanity,” referring to both genders together. God's image is not limited to one gender—it is reflected in the unity and partnership of male and female as God designed them. [Genesis 2:18-25](#) expands this truth by showing God's creation of woman. God declared, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him” ([Genesis 2:18](#)). After forming Adam and giving him authority to name the animals, God made Eve from Adam's rib and brought her to him. Adam rejoiced, saying, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” ([Genesis 2:23](#)). The creation of woman completes the picture of God's image in humanity—two equal yet distinct people, united in purpose, love, and relationship.

God created both man and woman to love Him, worship Him, and give Him glory. Their relationship with each other and with God reflected His goodness and design. Marriage, as established in [Genesis 2:24](#), was not merely a social arrangement but a divine creation that mirrors God's own nature of unity and love. Jesus later affirmed this truth in [Matthew 19:4-5](#), quoting Genesis: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” Paul built upon this foundation in [Ephesians 5:25-32](#), describing marriage as a living picture of Christ's love for His church.

Because every person is made in the image of God, all human life has intrinsic worth and dignity. This truth calls us to love and respect ourselves and others—not because of appearance, ability, or achievement—but because each person bears the image of the Creator. [Psalm 100:3](#) reminds us, “It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.” Likewise, [Psalm 139:13-16](#) declares that God formed each person carefully and purposefully, knitting us together in our mother's womb.

God gave Adam and Eve a spirit so they could know Him. This is one of the ways humanity is set apart from the rest of creation—our true identity lies not only in our bodies but in our souls. [Zechariah 12:1](#) says, “The Lord...formed the spirit of man within him.” This spiritual

capacity allows us to know, love, and worship God in a deep and personal way.

We were created for relationship with God—one that is meaningful, joyful, and complete. Adam and Eve were designed to glorify God and enjoy perfect fellowship with Him in Eden, and we are invited into that same kind of relationship today through Jesus Christ. Though sin later broke that perfect connection, the gospel tells us that God did not leave humanity in brokenness. The same God who breathed life into Adam sent His Son, Jesus—the perfect image of God (*Colossians 1:15*)—to breathe new spiritual life into all who believe.

Through Jesus, the image of God that was marred by sin is restored. In Him, we are made new and brought back into the relationship with God we were created to enjoy. Our value, identity, and purpose are found not in what we do but in who made us and redeemed us.

TELL THE STORY

Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:18-25



When God finished creating the world, He saved His best work for last—people! In *Genesis 1:26–27*, God said something new: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” Up to this point, God had said, “Let there be...” and things appeared, but this time God spoke with special care and purpose. God made people to be like Him in a way that nothing else He created was.

God formed the first man, Adam, from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life (*Genesis 2:7*). That breath made Adam come alive and set people apart from animals or plants. Being made in God’s image doesn’t mean we look exactly like Him, but it means we can think, make choices, love, and have a relationship with Him. We can know right from wrong, show kindness, and care for what God created.

God gave Adam a beautiful home—the Garden of Eden—and a big job. He told Adam to work and care for the garden (*Genesis 2:15*) and to name all the animals. As Adam named each one, he realized that none of them was like him. So God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make a helper fit for him” (*Genesis 2:18*). God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, took one of his ribs, and made

the first woman, Eve (*Genesis 2:21–22*). When Adam saw her, he was thrilled! He said, “This is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (*Genesis 2:23*).

God made both the man and the woman in His image and gave them the job of ruling over the earth and filling it with life (*Genesis 1:28*). He also gave them marriage as a special gift—a loving friendship between one man and one woman that shows God’s plan for love and teamwork. Jesus later reminded His followers of this when He said, “The two shall become one flesh” (*Matthew 19:5*).

Because every person is made in God’s image, everyone is important and valuable. *Psalms 100:3* says, “It is He who made us, and we are His,” and Psalm 139:14 tells us that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” God made each of us on purpose and with a purpose—to know Him, love Him, and show His goodness to others.

Even though sin later broke the perfect relationship people had with God, He didn’t give up on us. God sent Jesus, “the image of the invisible God” (*Colossians 1:15*), to make a way for us to be close to Him again. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives our sin and gives us new life, restoring the image of God in us so we can live the way He always meant for us to.

REBUILD THE STORY

1. What is different about the way God created humans compared to the rest of creation? *Genesis 1:26-27*

2. What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
Genesis 2:7; Psalms 8:4-6

3. How did God bring the first man to life? *Genesis 2:7*

4. What does *Genesis 2* teach us about the relationship between man and woman? *Genesis 2:18, 21-23*

5. What does *Genesis 2* teach us about God’s design for marriage and relationships? *Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5*



6. What does it mean that God created both male and female in His image? *Genesis 1:27*

7. What was God's command and blessing for Adam and Eve?
Genesis 1:28

8. What does *Psalms 100:3* teach us about who we belong to?
Psalms 100:3

9. How should knowing that we are made in God's image change the way we see ourselves and others? *Psalms 139:13-16*

10. What are some unique or special things about you?

11. How can we reflect God's character in our everyday lives?
Ephesians 4:24

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

Genesis 1 and 2 remind us that every person was created by God, in His image, and for His glory. We were made to know God and to reflect His character in the world. Sin later damaged this perfect image, but it did not destroy it. The same God who breathed life into Adam sent Jesus to restore what was broken. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus makes it possible for us to be forgiven and made new. When we put our faith in Him, the image of God is renewed in us, and we can live again in fellowship with our Creator, just as He intended from the beginning.



WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Praise God, our Creator. Thank Him for creating us as unique and special image bearers. Ask God to help us use the individual gifts and characteristics He has given us to reflect His glory!



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Psalm 148