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In the Beginning

Part 2 | God Created Mankind

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7

TOPIC:

“In the Beginning | God Created Mankind”

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7

VERSE DISCOVERY: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7 (KJV, Public Domain)

Prepare

- Recap the highlights of the Creation story. Download pictures of each day of creation and pause for effect when you get to the creation of mankind... Mankind was different. Mankind was unique. Mankind was created to be special image-bearers of God.
- If your students have phones (older, for younger students you can take their pictures for them), have each take a selfie right there in class (if they are comfortable with that). Talk about the image they see. Is the picture a good representation of who you are? Why or why not? What are some things the images show about our uniqueness? What are some things the images don't show about our uniqueness?
- Using the **Explore** section below with its unique ideas can be an easy transition for a lesson lead in.
- The Bible tells us we are created by God and made in His image. We are His representation here on earth... (lead into the lesson).

Explore – Full Lesson Available on pages 6-11

Verses 1:26-27

Let us make man in our image, were the words that God spoke, and with that the fashioning of humanity began. The apex of God's creation went from thought to its formation and mankind came into existence. He who placed billions upon billions of stars in the skies above, caused the workings of an almost innumerable amount of nerve cells in each person who walks the face of this earth. And it all started with the man He created from the **dust of the ground**, Genesis 2:7 (Download a picture of the nervous system of the human body. Point out the great detail it takes just for one body to be made. Sum it up with this point: *although it all seems complicated, and we still can't understand the whole of it, it is all there by special design, created by God, inside each one of us.*

This man, from which all humanity would come from, was beautiful in design and perfect. He and his wife were image-bearers of God, created to have **dominion** over all other living

creatures that were placed in the earth. **Male and female**, individually they were created by special design to perform specific functions, but together they were the makeup of what God saw uniquely coming to pass in the creation of mankind as a whole.

Verses 1:28-31

God blessed them and set His seal of approval on the masterpiece that was living and breathing before Him. And not only that, but they were **blessed** to increase. Future generations would proceed out of this male and female before Him. People would fill the world from the special event that occurred on the sixth day of creation. And no part of the creation of man was left to chance.

With on purpose design, God created mankind and reiterated that He gave him the charge of all other living creatures to rule and manage under his care while He, Himself, furnishes mankind and all living creatures with all they need for food and survival. He gave them **every herb bearing seed** and the like (except for the one forbidden tree) for food and supply. (Note: as a demonstration bring in several herb plants and/or seeds to show to students. Younger students may enjoy cutting an apple in half sideways to see the star in the middle with the seeds. They can even make apple print pictures as a reminder of God's supply for the man He created.)

Everything God saw that He made was **very good**. God was pleased with His creation.

Verses 2:7

With His plan for creation completed, God was done working. The beginning of Genesis 2 notes that now it was time to rest or cease (Vv.1-3). With everything being very good (above), there was nothing else that needed to be done. Everything was perfect. The stars were shining, the sun and moon stood in their places, the earth was formed, and life is thriving upon it, including mankind.

May we reflect on the wonder of the Creator that brought us here and worship Him (Psalm 104), because it is He that **formed man of the dust of the ground**, it is because of God, mankind was created in the first place.

Activities

- Journal Pages – We are made in the **Image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)**. Use the journal pages to reflect on this most valuable truth and answer the questions accordingly.
- Fingerprints uniquely tell who we are. There are no two sets alike, not even for identical twins. Your fingerprints tell of the individual God made you to be, that you are individually special to God. Using a stamper pad and the fingers of students, each student can rub



their thumb on the ink of the stamper pad and stamp a piece of paper with their fingerprint. Have them look carefully at it. Students can even exchange them with one another to see their own uniqueness in the way God created them. Tie this example into today's lesson.

- Younger students can work with moldable playing dough. For this example, homemade is best (I like the idea of using it organically, with no colors for the forming of man effect), but of course, any kind of moldable dough for playing will do. Have students form "man" from the blob you give them. Discuss how easy or hard it was. Discuss the intricate details it took for God to make us. (Note: if you are using homemade dough, and if time allows, let the children help you make the dough, to really get involved in the "creation" of the people they make. Find a recipe for a non-cooking version. There are many online to choose from.)
- Younger students can also put together a **Made in God's Image** people necklace. Print from the outlines (found on site with this lesson) the people templates on cardstock or glue to construction paper. Decorate each one as you want. Punch a hole in the top and string through with yarn or something similar. You can even add beads for a nice, decorated effect. They can wear it proudly around their neck because they are **Made in God's Image**.
- Alternate activity sheets are available for those who just want to work with other printable activities such as **Draw the Scene, Memory Verse, Word Search, and more** can be found on wordforlifesays.com.

Review

- Commit to memory the base verse from the lesson: ***"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
- Fill out the review sheet provided (page 12)

Life

There are a lot of things that try to come against the wonderful God design made you and me to be. Throughout this week, read and study Psalm 139:13-18 over and over again, paying particular attention to verse 14 where David declared, ***"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*** (Try writing it on index cards or sticky notes to carry with you where you go).



Every time a negative thought arises that speaks against this truth, combat it with this very truth: ***“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”*** There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it. This is the truth of who God says we are. No need to argue about it or rehearse any negative things that speak against it. We are beautiful. We are wonderful. We are created as His special image-bearers. We are unique in His eyes. And we are loved just as He created us! (For extra measure, read my poem, *By Chance?* located on www.wordforlifesays.com.)



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Do you know how special you are? Do you know of the creative design that brought you here today? Can you fully appreciate your uniqueness, being an altogether separate creature from all others God created?

As part of the human race, you are the climax of God’s design. Oh, the stars and objects above serve their purpose and are beautiful to look at, but they are not you. And as we look out on the horizon to view nature, we may sigh pleasantly at the glorious way the panoramic view displays His beautiful scene before us, but no scene is more beautiful to Him than those who were made in His image, in His likeness. These are the ones specially designed for a unique relationship with the Father.

As the creation story unfolds in the beginning, may we find our place in it, our origin in it, and may those findings render a new appreciation for how special you are in the eyes of God.

GOD CREATED MAN

Genesis 1:26-27 “And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

For six days, God had been creating. With light created and darkness separated, both being defined for what they are, and with land, plant life, and celestial bodies spoken into existence and put in their places, the Creation story of the beginning of everything we know is off to a beautiful start, and it is all good in the sight of the Creator.

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With sea, land, and air creatures created and placed in their proper places, it is time for the crème de la crème of all His creation to be formed. That apex of God’s design comes when He decides to inhabit this grand earth He made with mankind.

Mankind is the most unique of all God’s creation for several reasons (and we’ll discuss those reasons in a bit), but let’s home in on the word “unique” for a moment in relation to all the elements of the Creation story already put in place.

Mankind has nothing like himself that dwells on the face of the earth outside of other members of the human race. Yes, I know there is a scientific theory that tries to exaggerate similarities between humans and other species when, in fact, there are no other species identical to the man God formed out of the dust of the ground as his beginning origins (Genesis 2:7). And I know there are other theories that express many ideas of suppositions of how we came to be the people we are in the place that we are in, but the Bible gives the very straightforward facts of not only our origin but also why we are so special in our uniqueness among all other creation.

For we are made in the *image/likeness* of God. God, Himself, spoke on that sixth day of creation and said, **“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”**

The words **“us”** and **“our”** leave many asking to whom God is talking while speaking at this moment. Now, again, while many people have theorized several answers to that question, the most biblically based, solid answer revolves around the distinct and self-existent, unique way God is fully God as Father (1 Corinthians 8:6), Son (John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:16-17), and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:2) Himself at the time of creation and throughout Scripture.

And although God, our Father, may be manifested in these three ways, make no mistake about it, there is only One God: **“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord”** (Deuteronomy 6:4). Then, it goes on to say, **“So God created man in his own image,”** using singular language and not plural.

With God having no physical likeness, the image/likeness we were made to be like has more to do with the way He created man from the inside out. Though His thoughts are above our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9), God gave us the capacity to think and operate in this world as His image-bearers, a capacity set apart from that of all other creatures to represent His likeness.

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In an article I previously published, *Our True Image*, I wrote:

“I believe when God spoke in the beginning that we were made in His image (see Genesis 1:27), He spoke of more than just our facial features, our physique, our height, weight, and so on. He spoke of our representation of something the boundaries of those outer measurements can’t comprehend. He spoke of our likeness of Him. At that point of creation, when it came time for humanity to be put on the earth, God looked to Himself to snap a portrait of who we are truly designed to be.

Now, do I mean that you are supposed to be God sitting on the throne in heaven? No. But what I do mean is we are carriers of so much more. The portrait of our lives is made to expose and reflect His glory of the greater.” (WordForLifeSays.com)

Another part of the uniqueness of created humanity is that he is to reign and have **dominion** over all other creatures created. What this means is, as representatives of God on this earth, we are caretakers of the great gift of this planet and life on it that we have been given. As Adam would be placed in the Garden of Eden as its caretaker (Genesis 2:15), so, too, does all humanity have the responsibility for the world in which we live.

If you have ever been to the museum, you understand the priceless artifacts it holds and the responsibility it takes to ensure they are preserved as much as possible. Compare that with us being agents of care over this world.

One day, this earth will pass away in the great finale of the end times, but until then, every human being is given the order to care for this temporary home of ours, and all the other creatures in it.

Throughout the years, the word **dominion** has become synonymous with words like power, authority, and control. And while that is a right interpretation, what’s more important is how that word is being carried out. Are we taking for granted and treating recklessly those things placed under our control? Or are we managing everything in a godly fashion and taking proper care of what has been given to us? As His image-bearers, we have the responsibility to be responsible with His creation.

Both men and women carry this responsibility, for both are made in the **image of God** (Genesis 1:27). Each bears their own unique qualities that set them apart as **male and**

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female, but each is an image-bearer created by God and His perfect design for all humans. They may bear separate identifying markers, but as part of the human race, they are **made in his own image**. Jesus once said, “Have you not read that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female” (Matthew 19:4). Both have important roles in His creation.

Genesis 1:28 “And 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.**”

Then God spoke His blessings over them with the charge to **be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth**. God blessed them to be reproductive so that the earth might be filled. As God placed in all other living species of His creation the ability to reproduce (procreate) that the earth may teem with life, so He also did with humanity. Multiplication equals increase. Increase equals a filled earth (compare this with the events after the flood in Genesis 8:17; 9:1, 7).

And with that blessing of fruitfulness came also the reiteration of their responsibility to **subdue** and have **dominion... over every living thing...** God placed mankind in charge. This may make us special, and some may take for granted that top-of-the-food-chain status, but the greater reminder is that with such a heavy charge there comes more to answer for on how things/creatures/nature are used under our control/charge. Our job is to be righteous rulers over everything God has placed in our care (compare Proverbs 12:10).

Genesis 1:29-30 “And God said, **Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.**”

Just as God has called us to the position of caring for other creatures in creation, He shows mankind some of the ways He cares for them and all living things as He supplies for their nutritional needs. Specified seeds, fruits, herbs, and vegetation would be the **meat** or food source for all creatures, such as **beasts... fowls... and everything that creepeth upon the**

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earth, along with mankind, which God created. He furnished every living thing with all that they need to survive, flourish, and multiply.

Genesis 1:31 “**And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**”

When God took in the scope of everything He created, He **saw** it was **very good**. Everything was perfectly original, perfectly created, and perfectly placed. There was no intrusion in the tranquility of His beautiful design. Sin was not present, and the earth was as glorious as He envisioned it – unstained and unaffected by the mess we see today.

Once I wrote, “*Our original design was not to live in an environment of sin and decay. It was not designed to exist with dead and dreary things. It was designed to behold the beauty of God through His creation. We were designed to live in God’s best!*” ([Made for Green/WordForLifeSays.com](http://MadeforGreen/WordForLifeSays.com)).

And, when He saw His best on display, God viewed it as **very good**, finishing the **sixth day** of creation.

REITERATING GOD’S CREATION OF MAN

Genesis 2:7 “**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.**”

As chapter 2 opens, discussing God finishing creation and resting on the seventh day and sanctifying it, it goes on to reiterate, with additional detail, certain aspects of the creation story, including the specifics on mankind being **formed... of the dust of the ground** (compare Genesis 3:19, 23).

Opposite of everything that was spoken in creation, or the way the animals were called forth from the ground (Genesis 1:24; 2:19), mankind was the only one uniquely **formed** to be an image-bearer of God. This one was special, and he required a special design.

See, I told you that you were unique and special in His design. Then, God **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul**. Mankind is alive because of God. Should God take away or withhold that precious breath, mankind would cease to live (see Psalm 104:21; Job 34:14-15): “*Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens,*

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and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein,” (Isaiah 42:5).

God created mankind, and that’s the only true answer for our existence on this earth. You and I are **living souls** because of God!

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Please Answer the Review Questions Below

1. **T or F.** God created mankind on the seventh day.
2. God said, Let us make man in our _____, after our likeness.
A. Ways B. Abilities C. Image D. None
3. Describe the creation of **man**.

4. What does it mean to have “**Dominion**” over all the other living creatures?

5. God blessed them and said, “**Be fruitful and _____**”
A. Grow B. Expand C. Multiply D. None
6. **T or F.** God called forth man from the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7).
7. Man became a “**Living Soul**” after God breathed the “**Breath of Life**” into him (Genesis 2:7). How does that encourage your faith considering all the false theories of how we came to be?

