

TEXT Genesis 1:26-31; Psalm 8:4-9; Isaiah 43:6,7,21

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that man was created to praise and glorify God, and that God gave man dominion over all the rest of His creation.

MEMORY VERSE Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created. — Psalm 148:5

God Created Man

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

LET THEM PRAISE — Silently clap hands.

THE NAME — Tap first two fingers on both hands at right angles.

OF THE LORD — Make an L with thumb and first finger of the right hand. Touch thumb to left shoulder, bring across in front of body touching right waist.

FOR HE COMMANDED — Right index finger touching lips, forcefully move it away from body.

AND THEY — Point to someone.

WERE CREATED — Strike fists together, one on top of the other.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Three children holding a large heart are the visualization of this week's memory verse. (See pattern at the end of this lesson.) Cut apart the pieces and assemble one section at a time as your students memorize the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Open your class time by giving each child a lump of modeling clay. Let them attempt to form it into the shape of a man. Compliment their attempts, but then ask them what vital thing is missing. They should conclude that their figures do not have life.

1. God created man in His own image, and gave him life.

2. He gave man dominion over all animals and living creatures upon the earth.

3. God ordained that the plant life upon the earth would be food for mankind and the animals.

Climax: We are told in Psalms that man is "a little lower than the angels." We are God's most precious creation, and were created to praise and glorify Him.

Conclusion: We should realize that God made us, and that He is the One who gave us life and the capabilities we have. We should remember to be thankful to Him for this.

Response: The students will be able to describe how God created man, and will recognize that God gave man dominion over all the rest of His creation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Genesis 1:27 says, "God created man in his own image" and Genesis 2:18 says "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone." So God made a woman to be the man's helpmate. Although man was made in the image of God, he still had a need for intimate fellowship with a wife. But this need was also a reflection of the divine image in that God, too, has a desire for intimate fellowship with His creation. God also wants to say, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2:23 and Ephesians 5:30). This principle can be clearly seen in such Scriptures as Ephesians 5:31,32: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Or Isaiah 62:5: "As the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." (See also Romans 7:4; II Corinthians 11:2; Hosea 2:19; Jeremiah 3:14, and Revelation 19:7.)

Indeed, God was so desirous of this fellowship with man that He was willing to sacrifice His only begotten Son in order to make it possible. When man forsakes his rebellion and begins to worship God for who He is, the Creator, then the intimate relationship that was broken in the Garden is restored and both God and man find pleasure in it.

SPECIAL UNIT INSTRUCTIONS

Give each child the boy and girl for his creation mobile.

Give each child his Careful Caretaker creation assignment.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

God planned for man to worship Him and glorify Him in all that he does. Man was given dominance over animals and they work for man. Stress that people are needed to take care of the birds, fish, animals, and plants that God has made. Talk about any pets the children may have at home, and what they need in the way

of care. Have pictures of people feeding and caring for animals, gardens, etc. (Pet food ads are a good source.)

Have a game board, such as for checkers, in class without the playing pieces. Ask the children if they want to play. Why can't we play? Because without the playing pieces the game is not complete. God created us so that His creation would be complete. We can talk to Him and also listen to Him.

Bring some gingerbread boy and girl cookies. Have a tube of frosting and some things with which to decorate the cookies (raisins, peanuts, M & M's, etc.). Let the children create their own little "people."

QUESTIONS

For what special purpose did God make man?

What did God use as a pattern to make man and woman?

What does it mean to be "created for His glory"?

What did God provide for man to eat?

What did God leave man in charge of?

What can we do with our lives to give glory to the God who created us?

Tell some ways in which we can praise God.

What are some special things about each member of your family that you think must please God?

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Show the children pictures of animals. (You can use the animals in the Patterns section for lessons 15b, 16c, and 24a.) Call the animals by silly names and ask the children if they think that is what Adam named them.

Collect pictures showing many different cultures and people. Make sure to include as many different ethnic groups as possible. Stress that God created all people, not just those that look like the children themselves.

Make a collage of many people by cutting pictures from magazines or catalogs. Cut your figures off just below

the shoulders. Begin your collage by pasting a line of people across the top of your mounting board. Add succeeding rows of people, overlapping slightly. The end result will be a huge crowd. This can be a very effective visual aid any time you want to portray a large crowd. In this lesson, use it by pointing out people one at a time and explaining how they praise the Lord. (This is Sam. He praises God by singing his very best in Sunday school. This is Sarah. She worships God by always saying her prayers at night.)

REVIEW IDEAS

Prior to beginning your review, have a man lie down behind the area where you will stand for your review. Cover him with fake "grass" or a brown blanket. (Don't let your students know he is there.) When your group assembles, talk about all the different things God created, reviewing the lessons of the last two Sundays. Tell your students that today you have with you God's most special creation. At that signal, the man should stand up and you can introduce him.

Make "family" the theme of your review, using a real family with children of the approximate age of your students. Introduce the dad, asking why God made dads and what they do. Talk about each of the different family members, telling the special part that each one plays.

Take some of the items God created, such as a flower or an animal, but do not include people. Hold them up one at a time, talking about how pretty they are, how soft, or whatever. Then announce to your students that you are going to have a grand choir by God's creations. Turn around and pretend to direct the whole group of creations, but of course there will be no sound. Turn to the student audience and invite them to sing praise to the Lord with you, since none of these other creations can praise Him.

COORDINATING SONGS

"It's a Miracle"

"The Butterfly Song" (If I Were a Butterfly) — The First Sunday Sing-a-long — Maranatha for Kids

SUPPORT MATERIAL

See Support Material for Lessons 2c and 15c
Through the Bible With ABC's

The Story of Creation — an Alice in Bibleland storybook

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he command - ed, and they were cre
a - ted. Let them praise the name of the LORD, let them praise the name of the
LORD.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

