

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

LESSON 1a (Teacher Guide)

[Assigned Reading: Genesis, Chapters 1-3]

[Themes to Teach: Creation, Value of Human Life, Free Will, and the New Birth]

- **GOD CREATED THE WORLD IN SIX DAYS:** (Read Genesis 1:1-4)

Genesis 2:1–2 (KJV 1900)

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

God created the world to be inhabited by mankind. (See Isaiah 45:18)

Humans have a very special place in the plan of God. (See Psalm 8:3-6)

Adam & Eve were made for the glory of God and to be in relationship with Him.

- **GOD MADE MANKIND IN HIS IMAGE:**

Genesis 1:26–27 (KJV 1900)

26 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.

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

Human life is sacred because we are imprinted with the image of God.

What does it mean to be made in God's image?

- We are creative: We express ourselves creatively because we are made in the image of a creative God.
- We are spiritual: Unlike animals, we have an awareness of the spirit world.
- We are reasoning: We can contemplate math & science and discover the laws that God used to create the world.
- We are relational: While animals have flock and herd mentalities, humans have a deeper capacity for non-essential relationships.
- We are self-aware: We can identify ourselves in time and space. We also possess the ability to be self-conscious and make moral judgements.
- We have a free will: We can choose our own destiny.

- **GOD GAVE ADAM & EVE THE POWER OF CHOICE:**

Genesis 2:16–17 (KJV 1900)

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The tree of knowledge of good and evil served to give Adam and Eve the ability to either choose or reject God. Where there is no choice there can be no legitimate relationship. God gave mankind a free-will and dominion over the earth. By doing this, God limited His own sovereignty over them. He would not force His will on them.

- **ADAM & EVE WERE MADE TO LIVE IN TWO WORLDS:**

Genesis 2:7 (KJV 1900)

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.

- The physical world: We were made from the dust, forever connected to the physical realm. We have five physical senses that help us understand and relate to the physical world around us.
 - The spiritual world: God imparted the spirit of life to Adam when He breathed into him. We were made with the ability and desire to interact with the spiritual world.
- **BECAUSE OF ADAM'S SIN ALL ARE NOW BORN SPIRITUALLY DEAD:** (Read Gen 3:1-7)

Romans 5:12 (KJV 1900)

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

While we may be alive physically, all are born spiritually dead and separated from the life of God.

- **WE MUST BE BORN AGAIN:**

John 3:3–6 (KJV 1900)

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Jesus said we must have a second birth.

How are we born again? (John 3:5)

- By water = repentance & baptism (See Acts 2:37-39)
- By Spirit = Infilling of the Holy Spirit (See 1 Corinthians 12:13)

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