



## Living in Faith

Discipleship Series

The Story of  
Beginnings



# The Origin of Life



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*The Story of Beginnings*

## **THE ORIGIN OF LIFE**

### ***Living in Faith*** Discipleship Series

***LIVING IN FAITH*** Discipleship Series 2018

Text adapted by Multi-Language Productions of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

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Adapted from Original texts:

#### **God Creates Our World**

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# Getting Started

Where did everything come from? What is our purpose here? This book is about the origins of a perfect universe, the design of the human race, and the beginnings of evil and pain that infect it today. What is the solution?

## READ THE TEXT

Each lesson is broken up into smaller sections with a review question after each section. Feel free to stop at any of the passages to make sure you understand them or to dig more deeply into what they are saying. Circle, underline, or highlight key words.

## GRAPPLE WITH THE QUESTIONS

In this book there are also questions to start, review and end the lesson. If you are studying this on your own, think through the questions for yourself. If you are studying in a group, use the questions for deeper discussion. Designate someone as a facilitator. Allow each individual a level of comfort to ask questions and freedom to discover and grow.

## PREPARE TO SUMMARIZE AND SHARE AT THE END

The lessons are not just about learning information but applying it to your life and sharing it with others. As you go through lessons prepare to summarize it at the end to be able to retell it. It might be helpful to underline or circle key phrases or passages.

## NOTICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Each page also includes additional references on the sidebar for those who want to dig deeper (You will need a Bible or a Bible app to read those sections). They are available to use in group or in personal study.



= Location of Bible Story



= Search options – related passages

## APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE & MAP OUT YOUR NEXT STEPS



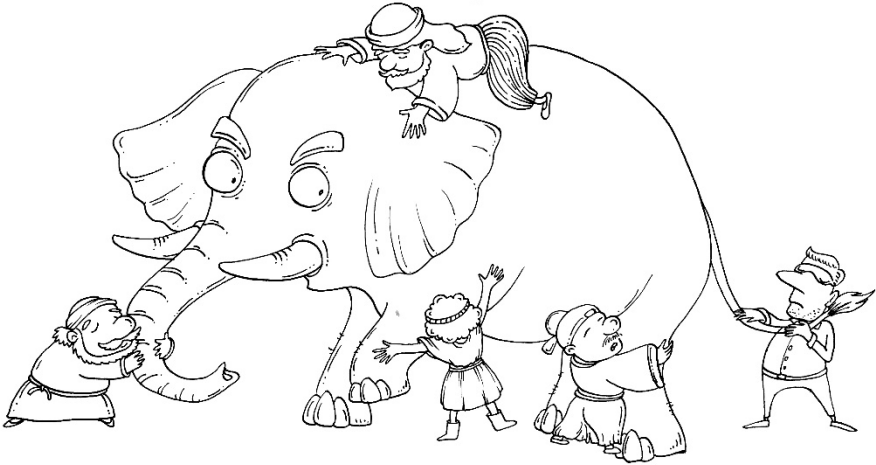
After connecting the timeless truths to your life, make sure you map out Next Steps before ending the lesson.



# Chapter One

## THE CAUSE OF LIFE

### *The Beginning of our Universe*



### Start with Your Life

Where did the world come from? How did everything get here? Why does the universe exist? Why do things happen the way they do?

1. Describe some of the different views people have about how the world began.

There is an old folk tale from India about blind men trying to describe an elephant. One touches the trunk and thinks the elephant looks like a snake. One touches the leg and thinks it looks like a tree. One touches the tusk and thinks it looks like a spear. How can we to understand what we cannot see, especially if we only experience a small part of it?

That is also true when we try to imagine the beginnings of the world. How we see it influences how we interpret the past, present and future. It motivates our definitions of what is good and bad, right and wrong, valuable or not.

## THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Our perspective depends on who is telling the story and their source of information. And our lives are shaped by the story we find ourselves in and how we interpret it. What are people saying?

Ancient religions and faith traditions say some sort of divine being is the cause of the beginnings of the world. They had developed into many different myths about the unseen source behind the wonders and mysteries of nature. But because no human has actually seen the beginning, it takes faith to believe those stories.



Some philosophers and spiritual leaders have taught that the world always existed and that God is the great Reality or Absolute that God is the universe



and the universe is God or that nature is just other modes or appearances of God. It takes faith in the complicated dynamics of those views.

Others tell us that our complex world evolved as the result of unguided natural causes that happened over billions of years. They picture what could have been brought about by chance or necessity – advancing

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**Because no human has seen what actually happened in the beginning, it takes faith to believe those stories**

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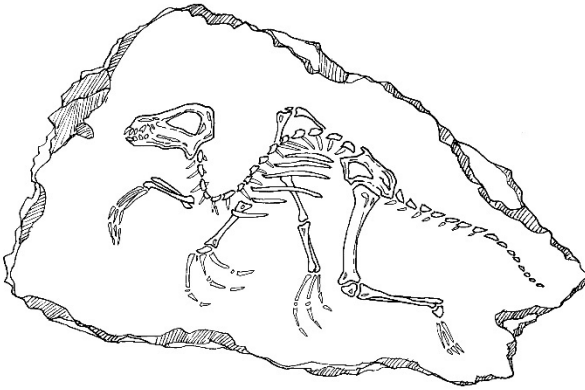
from simple cells to reptiles to apes and finally to human beings. Although these ideas are often taught as fact, they are actually hotly

debated and changing theories. It also takes faith to believe those stories too, since no human has seen what actually happened in the beginning or the cause behind it. King Solomon said,

**“No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it”** (Ecclesiastes 8:17).

There are many challenges with human efforts to discover the beginnings of the world, including:

- A pure scientific process can only prove accurately what can be directly observed and consistently repeated under same conditions.
- Written records of observable history only go back about 6,000 years to verify any theory.
- Fossils leave many gaps and controversial conclusions in the storyline of major theories.



So how do you really know what happened at the beginning of the universe or what existed in prehistoric times? Since no one was there, any

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**Any explanation of the world's origins is based on faith in the source**

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explanation of the world's origins is based on faith and confidence in the source. In telling the story, some try to

avoid any hint of a Creator or a miraculous creation. But King David maintains,

**"Foolish people say in their hearts, "There is no God" (Psalm 14:1, 53:1).**

Evolution can't explain the ultimate "uncaused" cause behind the start of creation. But King David directs our eyes to what we see around us:

**"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge" (Psalm 19:1-2).**

**So much in nature we don't know on our own**

Ecclesiastes 11:5

Job 36:22-33

Job 38-41

The world is too complex and orderly to happen by chance. There must have been something before anything appeared to set it into motion.

**“Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).**

Nature doesn’t teach us everything about God, but it gives us a start. When we think we know it all, God says,

**“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?” (Job 38:4).**

So if we want to find out how this world came into being and how we got here, we need to get our answers from the only One who was there when the world began. God was there. He challenges us to consider the evidence and his right to be the one to tell the story:

**“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? ...Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor?... Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 40:12-13, 28)**

God is the only reliable witness of things we cannot

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**God convinces us of his story through the Bible**

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see. And yes, it takes faith also to accept that. God convinces us of his story

**The  
trustworthiness  
of God’s Word**

Isaiah 40:8

1 Peter 1:24-25

2 Timothy 3:14-16

through the Bible written by his inspired writers.  
Jesus and his followers knew the Scriptures as the very Word of God and not human invention.



Jesus quoted these ancient writings as historic fact, not myth. He is recognized by many religions as a great spiritual prophet. But why would we believe Jesus? His followers needed no additional proof than witnessing that Jesus come back to life again after dying a torturous death on a cross. No ordinary human can do that. Besides all of Scripture contained clues that lead to that event. All of that secured believers faith so much that they were willing to die for it.

**“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (Hebrews 11:1-3).**

This is the core of the same faith that existed for thousands and thousands of years. If you start with

**Jesus verifies the  
accuracy of the  
writings of  
Moses**

[Luke 16:29-31](#)

[Luke 24:25-27,44-45](#)

[John 5:43-47](#)

**Learn more  
about the  
accuracy of the  
Bible from the  
study “How to  
Read Your Bible.”**

the Bible as the source of your worldview, a clear and consistent picture emerges.

2. What part of this section do you find interesting or difficult to explain?

## THE DESIGNER

When you look at an outstanding art piece, you realize there was a talented artist behind it. When you taste a mouth-watering meal, you conclude there is an experienced cook in the kitchen.



**God is the  
beginning and  
the end**

Isaiah 46:5, 8-10

Revelation 1:8, 17

So when you consider the order, beauty, and intricate detail of our universe, it broadcasts that an amazing

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**The order, beauty, and intricate detail of our universe broadcast that God is the great artist**

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God is the great artist, the grand architect, the master builder. Yet just by looking at nature,

many have come up with all sorts of viewpoints of what God must be like or how many gods actually exist. And an inaccurate view of God creates an inaccurate view of humanity.

Apostle Paul acknowledged to the Athenians how religious they are when he saw all the many statues to their different gods. But he told them he could instruct them about their “The Unknown God” who made the world and everything in it (Acts 17:22-27). In the Bible, God reveals the details about himself that we couldn’t know otherwise. To Moses God said, “I Am who I Am” (a title that led people to call him Jahweh). God is, and he always was, and he always will be the only God who exists. God had no beginning and has no end. Apostle Paul calls him,

**“God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and might forever.”**(1 Timothy 6:15b-16).

So that is part of the problem. An awe-inspiring God and a supernatural world will remain a mystery to

**God is not restricted to the forces of nature we observe in our world**

human logic and scientific study. And God’s creating activity belongs to the category of

miracles. God is not restricted to the forces of nature we observe in our world. His creation goes beyond observable laws of nature.

**“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?...**

**God has always been here and always will be (eternal)**

Deuteronomy 33:26-27

Nehemiah 9:5

Psalms 90:1-2

**The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.” (Isaiah 40:25-26, 28).**

There is no one so awesome as the true God. God’s power and wisdom are beyond anything we could imagine and therefore don’t fit our logical storylines. It is a blessing that we have the bigger picture revealed to us in the Bible and are not limited to our own observations and theories. In the Bible, God gives us the missing insights.

3. What key points or passages did you learn in this section?

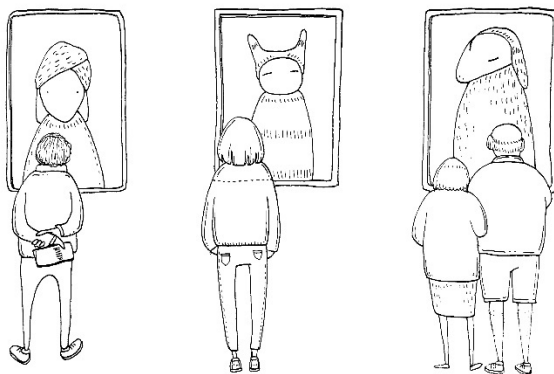
**Respect and awe  
of the Lord is the  
beginning of  
wisdom**

Psalm 111:10

Proverbs 2:1-6; 9:10

## THE BIBLE REVEALS GOD’S GLORY

Artists put their art on display in art gallery or public areas you can appreciate the creative genius of the artist.



The universe is God’s art gallery that showcases his glory. God wants us to explore his works to

appreciate the artist behind. But giving the credit to anything else is like the dishonesty of plagiarism and stealing the glory God deserves. He says,

**“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols”**  
(Isaiah 42:8).

God is serious about that, because the created world is meant to lead our eyes and hearts to the One on whom our lives depend. He wants us to get to know him, even though there will be a lot he does not reveal.

**“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law”** (Deuteronomy 29:29).

The amazing discoveries about our bodies, the wonders of nature, and the mysteries of the universe are meant to turn us toward that one true God who created it all. So when you look at a glorious sunset or the miracle of a baby’s birth, let it lead you to say,

**“Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom...I will meditate on your wonderful works.”** (Psalm 145:3,5).

As you read through the Bible, you begin to understand God better. It reveals that God is three distinct beings acting together in unity as the one and only God. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all in essence one God. We would describe God as triune (three in one). I know that is hard to comprehend. But in the Bible we begin to appreciate how each distinct person of God carried

**God’s Works  
inspire praise**

Nehemiah 9:6

Psalms 145, 148

Jeremiah 10:12

**Learn more  
about the Triune  
God in the study,  
“What Christians  
Believe.”**



out a unique role in creating our world and providing what we need most.

Genesis 1-3 sets the foundation and tone for the wonderful saving message of the Bible. It is more than learning about the origins of the world. It is discovering how we can have a joyful and eternal relationship with the God who put us here.

**"I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth"**  
(Psalm 121:1-2).

Most important, the Bible directs us to the work of

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**It is more than learning  
about the origins of life.  
It is discovering a joyful  
relationship with God**

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Jesus. It is the consistent storyline of the Bible from the first book of Genesis written by Moses to the last book called

Revelation written by John.



Jesus said,

**The creation is a  
key teaching  
throughout the  
Bible**

Psalm 104

Matthew 19:4-5

Acts 17:24-27

**“If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me” (John 5:46).**

**“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (Luke 24:27).**

When you trust God’s revelation in Scripture, you begin to see the grand plan that unfolds. Jesus said,

**“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).**

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**When you trust God’s revelation in Scripture, you begin to see the grand plan that unfolds**

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It is not a world that came about by chance or accident, but one with a director who has a purpose. We see

God’s glory shine in his grace and love to us to unite us with him even beyond this world. That only happens through Jesus. Jesus said,

**“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).**

4. What key points or passages did you glean from this last section?



## CONNECTING TO YOUR DAILY LIFE

1. List the different views people have about how this world started. How would you explain that it is really a matter of faith and not scientifically provable facts?
2. Evaluate why it is important to start with the creation account in Genesis to form our view of the world. What effect will that have on life?
3. What majestic sights or fine-tuned details in nature amaze you most and lead you to see the awesomeness of God? Explain how that can benefit your daily life.
4. Pick out the one point that was most meaningful for you in this lesson.
5. Please pray to God based on this.



**DEVELOP A SUMMARY OF THE LESSON** – Write down and discuss a brief explanation of this lesson. Make it clear and simple enough to share with others. If possible, illustrate it with a drawing or diagram.



## YOUR NEXT STEPS

### **Study it!**

Read again more carefully the passages in this lesson to understand what God is saying.

### **Memorize it!**

Suggestion: Memorize **Psalm 19:1-2** (Or identify a different Bible passage in this lesson that is most meaningful for you).

### **Apply it!**

Discuss how you can put this lesson into your life this week.

### **Share it!**

Who especially needs to hear this? Determine how you will share this chapter with others. (You can use this lesson and its summary to help you).

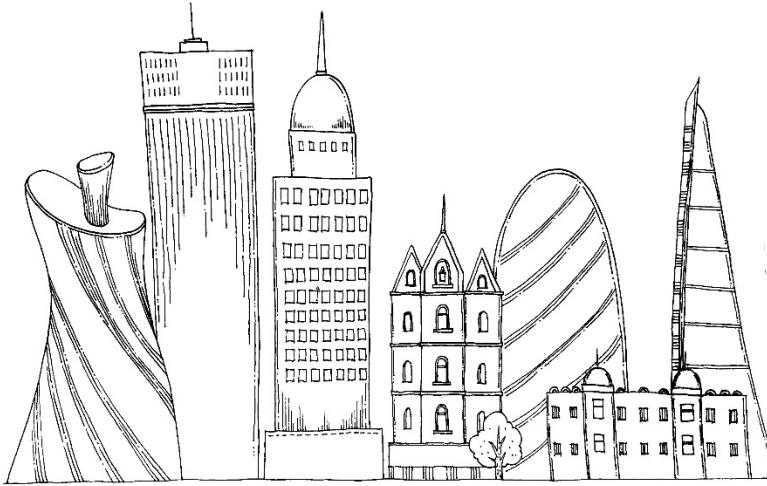
*Go on to the Chapter Two to learn of the orderly design of creation.*

## Chapter Two

# THE ORDERLY DESIGN OF THE WORLD

### *The Beginnings of Our World*

*✂ Share with each other a summary of the last lesson. Do you have questions?*



### **Start with Your Life**

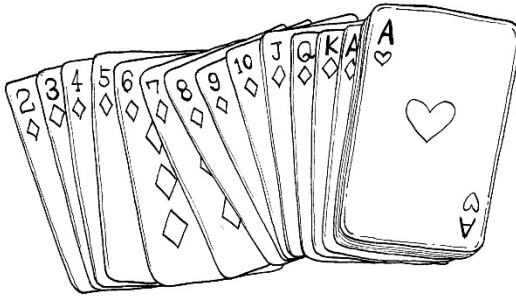
As you travel through large cities, you see many different architectural styles. You know those buildings didn't happen on their own. You expect there was a designer behind each one. Each structure is a testimony of the creativity and expertise of the architect, builder, and craftsmen.

1. Mention some of the special buildings you enjoy. Evaluate the process that must have gone into a creating such a structure.

Most scientists recognize that the universe had a beginning. If nothing existed, what started the chain of events? What was the initial cause? In this chapter, we will study the story described in the writings of Moses from around 3,500 years ago found in the book of Genesis.

## THE DESIGN OF THE EARTH AND SKY

What if someone handed you a deck of cards and said it was randomly shuffled. But when you looked at it, each card was perfectly ordered by suit and rank. What would you conclude?



Well, our universe is much more intricately set in detailed order than a deck of cards. The more we learn about the natural world, the more it reinforces that it had a Creator, Architect, Artist, Engineer – God himself. But how did God make the world?

1. Read all of Genesis chapter one. Discuss briefly what you especially noted.

## THE DAYS OF CREATION

The creation falls into the category of miracles –

**The creation falls into the category of miracles**

things only God can do. Miracles go beyond the laws of nature. Instead, it was

when God created the world, he set the laws of nature in motion that we can study today. Let's look again at each part:

### **DAY ONE – Basic Material & Light**

The creating action starts with the first verses:

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters”** (Genesis 1:1-2).

2. Point out some important details that these first two verses assume or clarify.

“In the beginning” expresses that God already existed. He is separate from and far greater than his creation. He has been around from eternity. So how did he create things?

**God just spoke and each part of the world came into existence**

Well, in our world if you want to build a house, you need lumber, and nails,

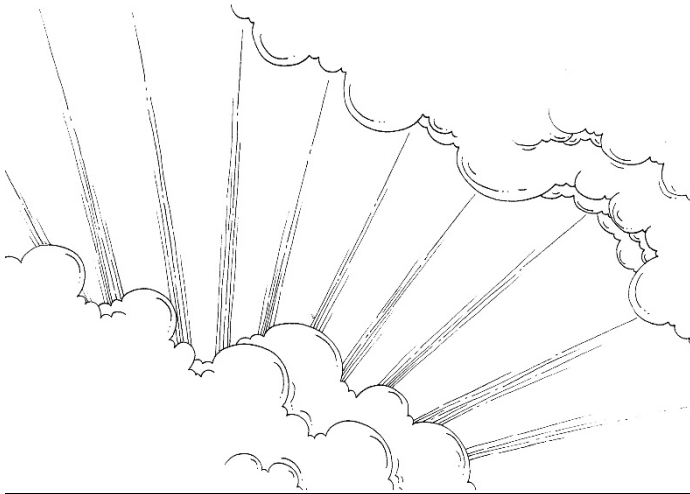
concrete and other supplies. God, however, did not need any existing material. He made it out of

**Earth was formed out of water and by water**

2 Peter 3:5

nothing. Before then there was no space, no time, no matter. In the very beginning, God effortlessly called into existence the elements for the universe. It began without definite shape and was “empty.” Water and darkness covered everything on the earth. Then the Word pierces the silence.

**And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day” (Genesis 1:3-5).**



God just spoke and each part of the world came into existence. Here God created light and set in motion a consistent division and rhythm of the day and night.

**Formed at God's  
command**

Hebrews 11:3

Psalm 33:6, 9

**God can provide  
light without sun**

Revelation 21:22-24,  
22:4-5



## **DAY TWO - Sky**

On the second day, God separated the waters on the earth from the waters above it. God called the space between the waters, "the sky." It is a place where the birds would fly. It also contained the atmosphere, the air we breathe, making life possible on the earth. And he ends the days saying,

**"And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day" (Genesis 1:8).**

## **DAY THREE - Vegetation**

On the third day, God shaped the surface of the earth. He created boundaries for the oceans and made dry land appear. Then he created beautiful and useful plants and fruit trees as nourishing food for those for the world's inhabitants.

**"Seed bearing plants...that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds" (Genesis 1:11-12).**



Notice how each type of plant or tree had a specific capability to reproduce “after its own kind.” So a

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**Each type of plant or tree had a unique capacity to reproduce “after its own kind”**

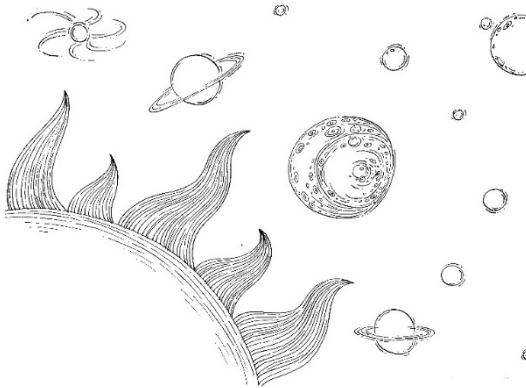
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fruit tree reproduces a fruit tree of its kind and a vegetable always produce the same vegetable. So day three was complete.

**“And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day”**  
(Genesis 1:12-13).

### ***DAY FOUR – Sun, Moon, Stars, Planets***

On the fourth day, God created visible forms that would now provide the light in the sky. The sun, the moon, and the stars would “separate the day from the night.” They would “serve as signs to mark seasons, and days and years” so consistent that they have been used as a guide for people as they travel the earth. By the end of the fourth day, God had provided all the elements essential for life – air, water, land, light, and plants.



**Each “kind”  
unique**

1 Corinthians 15:38-41

**God knows each  
star by name**

Psalm 8:3-4

Psalm 147:4

Job 9:8-10

The more we peer into space with high powered telescopes, the more we realize how vast and

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**God outfitted this planet  
to sustain life – our life**

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mysterious it is.  
Science uncovers  
an incredible  
balance that God  
built into this

world. The sun, stars, and planets need to stay in their exact positions and orbits to sustain life on earth. We may seem like such an insignificant speck in this immense universe filled with distant galaxies and millions of stars. Yet God outfitted this planet to sustain life – our life.

**"And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the fourth day"** (Genesis 1:18-19).

3. Review what God made on each of the first four days of creation. What features of creation during those days most impresses you today?

Day One:

Day Two:

Day Three:

Day Four:

## THE DESIGN OF LIVING CREATURES

When scientists delve into the microscopic world to unravel its mysteries, they see that many answers exist in a higher realm than we can explore. Life was

not a random accident of nature, but an intentional plan of God to outfit it for life. And as we study how

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**God created a unique  
balance and harmony  
in nature**

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our world interrelates, we begin to appreciate the unique balance and harmony God created in nature. There we

find ecosystems of creatures and plants that depend on each other for their survival.

**“For this is what the LORD says – he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited” (Isaiah 45:18).**

Each day of creation God supplied what was lacking to finally fill it with life.

### ***DAY FIVE – Creatures in the Ocean and Sky***

On the fifth day, we read

**“And God said, ‘Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth... according to their kinds’... God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth’... And there was evening, and there was morning – the fifth day” (Genesis 1:20-23).**

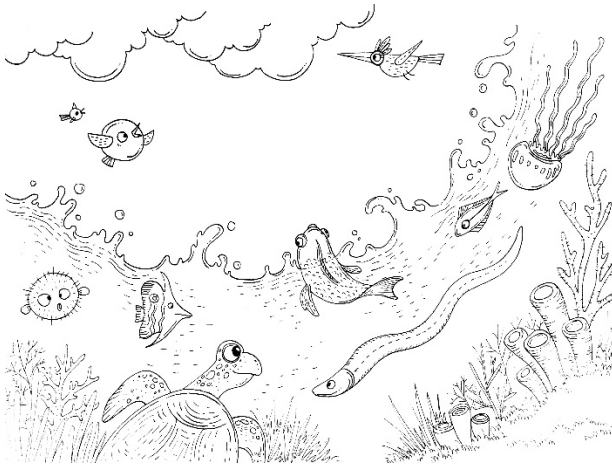
**Animals and  
birds formed out  
of the ground**

Genesis 2:19

Here God makes creatures of the sky and the seas.

They also were to multiply on the earth “according to their kinds.” They would produce more creatures like themselves. It was part of the design of the complex cells of living things that amaze us their life-giving activity. Many of the creatures that he created

are familiar to us today. Others have long since become extinct with remaining fossil that tease our imagination. More on that in chapter 5.



## **DAY SIX – Creatures on the Land**

On the sixth day, we read

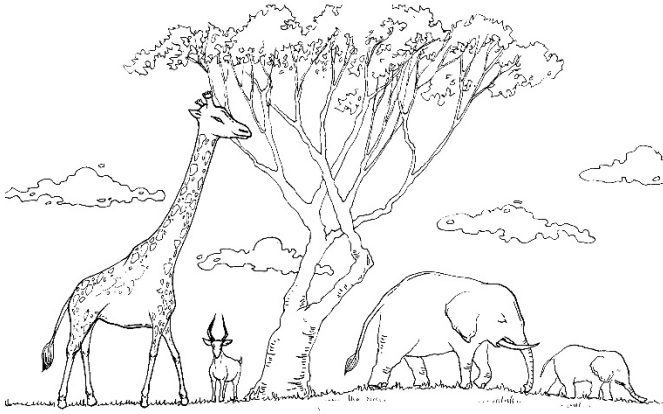
**“God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:25).**

**God describes his  
complex creation**

*Job 38-39*

On the sixth day God made the wild animals such as lions and bears. He made what we know as domestic and farm animals such as cows and sheep and cats and dogs. He made the reptiles such as snakes and lizards. They all produced “according to their kinds.” God endowed them with the capacity and impulse to reproduce living creatures like themselves. Male and female would pass on a mix of genes to make each kind of living thing distinct from

other kinds of organisms (flowers, whales, chickens, humans). You may ask, what about the fossils? No fossil provides a distinct link to show one kind of creature developed into another kind to support a storyline of evolution. The variations among their kinds unfolds the creativity and variety of God.



Each living thing has its own unique DNA code. It contains molecules uniquely lined up in a particular

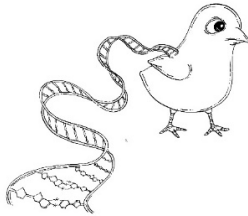
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**DNA – a blueprint for every cell**

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order to create a blueprint for each cell. It is like a complicated

language. The DNA has billions of incredibly detailed instructions that are continually decoded to build the unique characteristics of each plant or fish or dog or human.



**Praising the Creator**

Psalm 148

Nehemiah 9:5-6

Amazing! Think of the incredible wisdom and intelligence that had to be behind such a marvelous design!

On the sixth day, God also made Adam and Eve, the first people on this earth. They were the crowning feature of creation and most unique among all that was created. God made them in a very special way to relate to God and reflect his glory. We will consider that in the next chapter.

4. Review what the Bible tells us that God made on day five and six of creation. Which of those do you especially appreciate?

Day Five:

Day Six:

## **A COMPLETE, MATURE WORLD**

After the first two humans were created, it says

**"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 1:31, 2:1-3).**

5. What did you especially notice in these verses?

## DAY SEVEN – Rest

When God looked over the world and everything he had made, it was “very good” (Genesis 1:31), it was complete. After six days, the world did not lack anything to function perfectly in every way. Then on

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**After six days, the world did not lack anything to function perfectly**

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the seventh day, the Bible tells us, “He rested.” This does not mean God

became inactive or uninvolved by just observing from a distance. God remains involved through the natural systems set in place and in sustaining and directing it according to his purposes. It leaves us with the confidence that God will hold things together no matter what seems to be happening around us.

And did you notice how long this all took? If you

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**God could have created a mature world in an instant**

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imagine the world evolved through chance happenings, you would need to come up with billions of years to make it

seem possible. But if God is truly all-powerful and sovereign, he could have created a mature world in an instant, a split second. The Bible, however, tells us God made the universe and everything in it in six days. The combination of individual numbers for the days and the phrase “evening and morning” matches the descriptions of ordinary days as we know them – ones that form the basis of our week (Exodus 20:11).

**God gives Rest – enjoyment of Him**

Matthew 11:28-30

Hebrews 4:1-11

Revelation 14:13

**God sustains his created world**

Psalms 104:10-23

Hebrews 1:1-3

**Six days**

Exodus 20:9-11,  
31:15-17



The six days of creation shows a purposefulness of creation. Each day established the elements needed for the next stage of creation so that the world could become an ideal place for humanity to live. Amazing, isn't it! But God doesn't want us just to understand and appreciate what he created, but to know the Creator and find meaning and life in him.

**Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen" (Romans 11:33-36)**

**Wisdom behind  
Creation**

Proverbs 8:12, 22-35

6. Review what you learned from the seventh day.



## **CONNECTING TO YOUR DAILY LIFE**

1. Determine where science opens up a greater appreciation of the created world. Which part most fascinates you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Explain what it means that creatures produce “after their kinds” and how that affects the theory of evolution.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Discuss the amazing order and balance needed for our world that is described in Genesis 1. What does that tell you about God in your life today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Pick out the one point that was most meaningful for you in this lesson.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Please pray to God based on this.



**DEVELOP A SUMMARY OF THE LESSON** – Write down and discuss a brief explanation of this lesson. Make it clear and simple enough to share with others. If possible, illustrate it with a drawing or diagram.



## **YOUR NEXT STEPS**

### **Study it!**

Read again more carefully the passages in this lesson to understand what God is saying.

### **Memorize it!**

Suggestion: Memorize **Hebrews 11:3** (Or identify a different Bible passage in this lesson that is most meaningful for you).

### **Apply it!**

Discuss how you can put this lesson into your life this week.

### **Share it!**

Who especially needs to hear this? Determine how you will share this chapter with others. (You can use this lesson and its summary to help you).

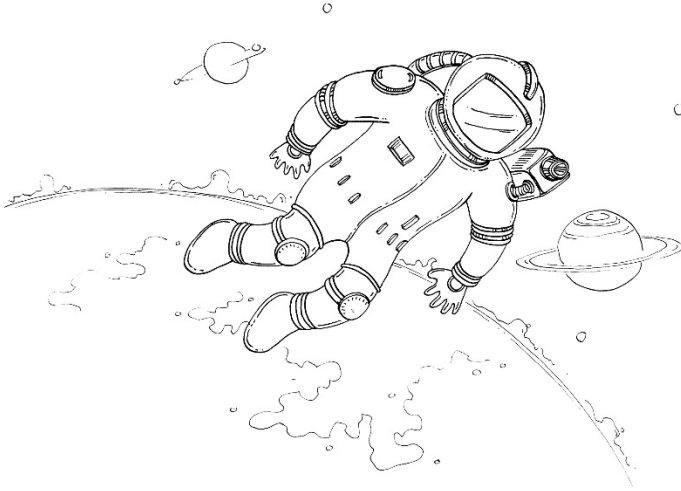
*Go on to the Chapter Three to learn of the God's design of humanity.*

## Chapter THREE

# THE CROWNING FEATURE OF CREATION

### *The Beginnings of Humanity and Family*

*✂ Share with each other a summary of the last lesson. Do you have questions?*



### **Start with Your Life**

When we look around at the world, it becomes obvious that humans are unique among all the other creatures on the planet. Only humans can send a man to walk on the moon or bake chocolate chip cookies in ovens we invented in homes we built.

1. Discuss some other evidences that show how different humans are compared to all other creatures in the world.

Animals repeat the same characteristic behaviors as far back as written records can testify. People, on the other hand, create art, architecture, music, and write books. With oral and written language we pass down knowledge, tools, and skills from generation to generation. We continually produce new advances in science, technology, and medicine. We develop computers, fly in airplanes, and discover DNA. Even the relics and structures from ancient human civilizations reveal amazing skill and engineering feats so advanced it baffles today's scientists. What made us special? When we look at the vastness of the universe, we realize we are merely a small speck on a small planet. We ask, "Who am I? Why do I exist?" King David asks God,

**"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"** (Psalm 8:3-4).

## A UNIQUE INTENTIONAL DESIGN

Scientists keep looking for answers to humanity's origin. But God's account reveals what couldn't be discovered any other way. Genesis Chapter Two may look like a repeat of Chapter One. But think of it like a newspaper story. When newspaper people write a story, they begin by summarizing what happened. Further into the article they give the details of the most significant part of the story. In Genesis One, God provides a general overview of what happened during creation week. In Chapter Two, he gives us details especially about the first man and woman.

2. Read Genesis Two – the whole chapter. What did you especially note? What questions did it raise?

We were no mere accident of nature or unguided chance. The creation account does not describe the first person on this earth as the result of evolving

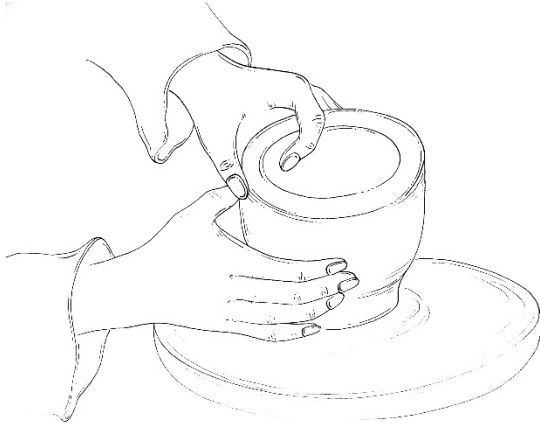
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**God personally formed the first man from the dust of the earth**

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over time. It does not trace our ancestry to some animal such as a chimpanzee. God personally formed

the first man from the dust of the earth as a unique creation. Like a potter taking a piece of clay and carefully forming it into a beautiful piece of functional art, God makes man.



**Made... like a potter who shapes the clay for a purpose**

Isaiah 64:8

Isaiah 45:9-12

Romans 9:20-21

Then, after describing how God shaped Adam's physical body out of the ground, it tells us,

**God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being"**  
(Genesis 2:7).

Man became alive with body and soul.

## CREATED FOR COMPANIONSHIP

Jesus refers to the beginnings of the world. He said,

**“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’”** (Mark 10:6).

But, where did the first woman come from? When God told Adam to name all of the animals, it was obvious that each had a matching mate, an appropriate companion.

**“But for Adam no suitable helper was found”** (Genesis 2:20).

Unlike the animals, Adam had no one that matched up with him. There were none that were like him, no one he could relate to as an intimate companion and friend. Adam recognized his life was not complete without a suitable companion. God said,

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**Adam recognized his life was not complete without a suitable companion**

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**“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him”** (Genesis 2:18).

So God put Adam into a deep sleep. Think of it like the sleep you enter when they give you anesthesia before an operation at the hospital. While Adam was asleep, God removed one of Adam’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. The account explains,

**“Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man”** (Genesis 2:22).

### Equality of worth

Proverbs 22:2

Romans 3:21-24

Galatians 3:26-29

### Adam and Eve – unique callings

1 Corinthians 11:3,  
11:8-9

Ephesians 5:21-33

Adam saw that this one, this time, was different, so wonderfully different than all the animals he had named. This was the perfect fit. He declared,

**“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man” (Genesis 2:23).**

This was Adam’s song of joy to have a beautiful partner and coworker. They would become “one flesh” and reflect the loving unity that existed within the Triune God. The unique gifts God gave the woman would fulfill what was lacking for humanity to be balanced and complete. In this inter-dependent

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**Jesus refers to Genesis Two when he describes the origin of marriage**

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relationship the man and the woman were to intimately share their lives with each other –

spiritually, socially, and physically. Jesus refers to Genesis Two when he describes the origin of marriage and God’s divine design behind it.

**“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate” (Matthew 19:4-6).**

## **Blessing of a wife**

Proverbs 18:22

Proverbs 31:10-31





## Blessing of Marriage Protected

Proverbs 5

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Hebrews 13:4

1 Peter 3:7

Marriage is not just a social development of convenience or necessity. From the beginning God made the loving companionship of marriage to be a

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**God crafted marriage  
as a way for one man  
and one woman to  
model God's love**

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foundational piece of his created world and human society. God crafted marriage as a way for one man and one woman to model God's love and

unselfishly be a blessing to each other. One of the blessings of God was sexual activity. God provided it for mutual joy to bond two married people into a special union. This design and desire for sexual union of a husband and wife would also generate another miracle of new life - children. In Genesis One God already announced:

**"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28).**

Think of the incredible miracle of this creation as a child grows in a mother's womb. A single cell from

## Blessing of Children

Psalms 127:3-5

Proverbs 17:6

Ephesians 6:4

mother and father unite to multiply into trillions of cells. They produce a remarkably complex individual with a distinctive personality and skills.



Through parents God would nurture and care for each child. Through children God would sustain and bless this world with new joys.

3. Review what you learned about the creation of man and woman, male and female.

## IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

In Genesis One, God shares a conversation within the triune God planning out creation of humans:

**Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the**

**ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them”**  
(Genesis 1:26-27).

Think about it! God, the unrivaled and majestic God, the supreme ruler of the universe, formed this first man and woman “in his image, his own likeness.”

This does not mean Adam and Eve physically looked like God. “God is spirit” (John 4:24). He cannot be

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**God had given them a soul that reflected his character ...to enjoy an intimate relationship with God**

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seen by the human eye and is unaffected by the forces of the physical world. We however are flesh and blood bound by

physical properties. Nor does “image of God” mean Adam and Eve were all powerful and all-knowing like God. They were like God in a spiritual way. God had given them a soul that reflected God’s own character and equipped them for an intimate relationship with God. In our soul we experience feeling and emotions to respond to the breathtaking features of God’s creation that our body hears, sees, tastes, or feels. With our soul we apply reason and dream to direct our bodies to reflect God’s creativity with our inventions. In our soul we are conscious of God and make moral choices for which we are accountable to our Maker. In our soul we hunger for his love and can “walk” with him.

A human’s deeply spiritual nature is what makes us unique in all of creation. Being in the image of God, Adam and Eve had the ability to respect, love, and trust in the Creator with all their heart, soul, and

**God’s distinct plans humanity**

Deuteronomy

4:32-35

Psalm 8

**Relationship with God flows from love that responds with obedience**

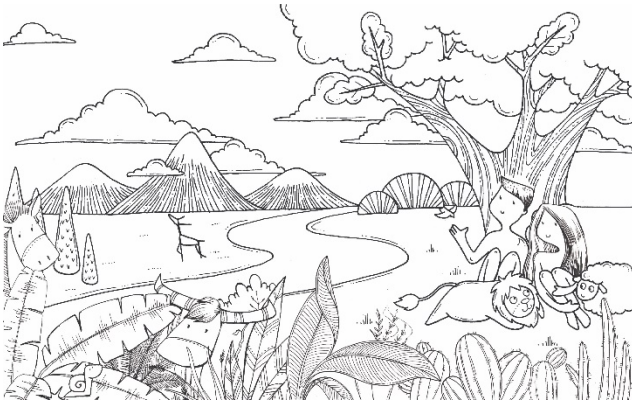
Deuteronomy 6:1-7

John 14:15,21-24

1 John 5:1-5

mind (Matthew 22:37). It expressed their worship and loyalty to the one who created and cared for them. That attitude would equip them for their task.

**“God blessed them and said to them, ‘...Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground’” (Genesis 1:28)**



God gave Adam and Eve the authority and ability to

**God gave Adam and Eve  
the authority and ability  
to manage all living  
things God created**

be managers of all  
living things God  
created. It was their  
royal status meant to  
represent God to  
creation.

**“You ... crowned them with glory and honor.  
You made them rulers over the works of your  
hands” (Psalm 8:5-6)**

This type of “ruling” describes the royalty who manage a kingdom for the purpose of caring for and protecting its inhabitants. Adam and Eve’s rule was to represent God’s generous love and care to his

**Ruling is to be a  
form of loving  
service**

Mark 10:42-45

John 13:1-17

Philippians 2:1-11

creation. It was an honored position. It was their “work,” their service to God. Knowing God’s love made the work a pleasure.

Believing and obeying God brought peace and harmony to the Garden of Eden. At the end of Chapter Two it tells us,

**“The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame” (Genesis 2:25).**

What a wholesome world! There was nothing to be embarrassed about and nothing to hide – no secrets, no lies, no fears, no need to cover up. There was perfect honesty and openness. There was complete trust in God and each other. Creation ends with:

**“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in their vast array” (Genesis 1:31, 2:1).**

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**With the creation of Adam and Eve, everything was complete – a mature functioning world**

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With the creation of Adam and Eve, everything was complete and perfect – a mature functioning world.

And you...your existence was not by chance or accident either. God created you with an intentional design and purpose too. Your fingerprints and DNA make you unique. Your skills and personality make you one-of-a-kind. He made you for a special purpose in his world – a blessing to others in your unique way to reflect the love of God. But even

**Trust how God plans our existence**

Jeremiah 1:4-9

Ephesians 1:3-6

**Be content how God sustains our existence**

Nehemiah 9:19-21

Matthew 6:25-34

Luke 12:6-31

**Marvel at what God made you**

Psalms 139:13-18

Psalms 95:4-7

Psalms 119:73

better, God knows your name and understands you.  
He cares about you.

4. How would you explain to someone what it means to be created “in the image of God?”



## **CONNECTING TO YOUR DAILY LIFE**

1. Discuss how differently people would view themselves and their lives if they believe the story of God’s creation compared to the theories of evolution.
2. God knew it was not good “for man to be alone.” Mention some of the blessings of being male or female together in this world. How do we demonstrate appreciation for that?
3. Humanity was originally created “in the image of God.” How would you expect our relationships would be different if we could perfectly reflect God’s image?

4. Review what we can understand about Adam and Eve's initial role in creation. How might that influence the way we should deal with or interact with our world?
5. Pick out the one point that was most meaningful for you in this lesson.
6. Please pray to God based on this.



**DEVELOP A SUMMARY OF THE LESSON** – Write down and discuss a brief explanation of this lesson. Make it clear and simple enough to share with others. If possible, illustrate it with a drawing or diagram.



## **YOUR NEXT STEPS**

**Study it!**

Read again more carefully the passages in this lesson to understand what God is saying.

**Memorize it!**

Suggestion: Memorize **Genesis 1:26-27** (Or identify a different Bible passage in this lesson that is most meaningful for you).

**Apply it!**

Discuss how you can put this lesson into your life this week.

**Share it!**

Who especially needs to hear this? Determine how you will share this chapter with others. (You can use this lesson and its summary to help you).

*Go on to the next lesson to learn how evil entered into a perfect world.*



## Chapter FOUR

# THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

### *The Infection of Sin and Shame*

*✂ Share with each other a summary of the last lesson. Do you have questions?*



### **Start with Your Life**

It is hard to imagine a perfect world when we look around us. We long for perfect harmony, global peace, and racial cooperation. We hunger for acceptance and fulfillment. We crave personal love and joy. But today there is so much hurt and evil and fear and brokenness.

1. List some of the specific evidences of evil, pain, or disharmony seen in past history or in our world today.

Genesis 3 records the saddest day on all of history. It is the beginning of all the problems we know of today.

## THE INVISIBLE FORCES OF THE WORLD

To recognize what happened, we need to understand some things that can't be seen or discovered by scientific investigation – the supernatural world.

**“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible”**  
(Colossians 1:16).

Somewhere during the days of creation, God created spiritual beings (Job 38:4-7). They are called angels in the Bible.

**Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.** (Psalm 103:20)

Angel means “messenger.” They are **“ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation”** (Hebrews 1:14). They were part of God’s systems to take care of Adam and Eve and their offspring. **“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways”** (Psalm 91:11). We read that there are **“thousands upon thousands, ten thousands upon ten thousands”** of angels (Daniel 7:10, Revelation 5:11).

Although they can't see it, most people have a sense and fear of the supernatural. So, are people's fears of evil spirits unfounded? No. This is where the creation story turns dark. Not every angel was

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**Satan wanted the authority and honor that belongs to God alone**

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### Accounts of angels

2 Kings 6:15-17

2 Kings 19:31-36

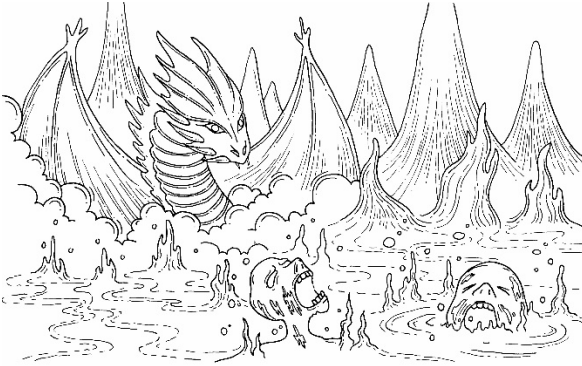
Luke 1:8-14, 26-35

Luke 24:1-8

Acts 12:4-11

satisfied in their submissive role under God. One of the powerful angels, known in the Bible as the devil or Satan, wanted the authority and honor that belongs to God alone (Jude 6). Many other angels also chose to follow Satan's rebellion and became the demons. Because of their disrespect of God's majesty, he banished them to the judgment of hell.

**"God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment" (2 Peter 2:4).**



Jesus calls hell, **"the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels"** (Matthew 25:41).

2. Explain the purpose of angels and the tragic problem that developed in the spiritual realms.

## **THE LOSS OF HONOR AND TRUE FREEDOM**

God placed Adam and Eve in a special garden, called the Garden of Eden. They were to take care of it. But

they also had the freedom to enjoy the abundance and variety God supplied in the garden. God gave them only one restriction.

**“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die” (Genesis 2:16-17).**

3. Read the account in Genesis 3:1-13. What did you especially notice? What questions do you have?

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**Their relationship with God was to be one of unforced respect, trust, and love**

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In the beginning God had given Adam and Eve the sacred honor and privilege of freedom of will. That

way they could enjoy their relationship with God freely with unforced respect, trust and love. God loved Adam and Eve. With his command to not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, God wanted them to freely love him back. There is freedom and joy in that. The tree also presented a moral choice. Would they display loyalty to their Creator and obey? Would they willingly reflect God’s will in their rule over the world? Or would they seek independence from God so they could decide on their own what is moral and just, good and evil? In effect, the Creator was saying, “Do not play God, or this harmony and peace I created will die.” But using the form of a snake, the devil approached Eve and asked,

**Love God = The greatest command**

Deuteronomy 6:3-5

Matthew 4:9-10

Matthew 22:35-40

**“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1).**

Did you catch how the devil is trying to cause Eve to question God? He mixes up God’s word and makes God seem unfair and unreasonable. Eve responded that God said they could eat from the trees in the garden, but not the tree in the middle of the garden or they will die. Pulling her further into his trap, the devil said,

**“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”** (Genesis 3:4-5).

Did you hear what Satan said this time? He completely contradicts God’s word. Satan pretends

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**Satan pretends to be a messenger of enlightenment & personal happiness**

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to be a messenger of enlightenment and personal happiness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). He makes it seem as if there is

some secret wisdom and power they can have if they follow his advice. He even suggests that they could actually become like God if they ate of the tree.

This would have been the opportunity for Eve to give honor to God. She could have responded with loving loyalty and unwavering obedience to her Creator. But like innocent children, Adam and Eve had no experience of the danger they were facing. That is why trusting what God says is the highest guide of human choices. God is good and knows the outcomes. But the sad account continues.

**Jesus resists  
Satan’s  
temptations**

[Matthew 4:1-11](#)

[Hebrews 4:15](#)

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it"  
(Genesis 3:6).



All the other trees were also “pleasing to the eye and good for food” (Genesis 2:9). But instead of trusting God’s words, she began to justify how the forbidden fruit would benefit her more. She overlooked all the amazing blessings they already had around them.

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**Instead of trusting God’s words, she began to justify how the forbidden fruit would benefit her**

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Satan sidetracked her focus to want the one thing they couldn’t have. Satan changed her focus away from trust and loyalty to

God. It was all about herself and what was she desired.

And what about Adam? He carried the burden of guilt. Instead of providing loving guidance and reminding Eve of God's command, he also ate the fruit. With that action, God's love was betrayed, and

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**Unbelief shames God and brings darkness**

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his glory dishonored. Adam and Eve's eyes were opened to realize the goodness they

had lost. They experienced the absence of good – the condition of being evil. It is like when you take away all light, you end up with darkness. God had "lost face" when they disgraced God's majesty and love. Unbelief shames God and brings darkness. God could no longer look at them as honorable and worthy of his presence. That day their spiritual life died. Jesus warned people,

**"(The devil) was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies...He who belongs to God, hears what God says" (John 8:44, 47).**

4. Review the process Satan used to draw Adam and Eve away from God and the result.

**Adam - Guilty**

Romans 5:12-20

## THEIR REACTIONS: SHAME, FEAR, PAIN

Everything now changed.

**Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden...**

**(Adam said) I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid"** (Genesis 3:8-10)

5. Describe how Adam and Eve's changed relationship with God affected them.



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**Adam and Eve hid  
because they no longer  
could see and feel God's  
love**

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Adam and Eve hid because they no longer could see and feel God's love. They too had lost face before God.



Their action was an insult to God's honor. Shame, guilt, and fear flooded over them because knew they had become entirely shameful to God. They no longer saw God as friend but as judge. Instead of being free and happy in their former innocence, they became self-conscious and embarrassed by their nakedness. They tried to cover up their shame with fig leaves. But you can't hide it from God. But God came to them to solve it.

**“And he (God) said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?’ The man said, ‘The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’ Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ (Genesis 3:11-13)**

6. How did Adam and Eve's shame and guilt affect their responses and relationships?

Adam selfishly put the blame on Eve and in effect blamed God who gave Eve to him. But Adam had chosen his own actions and was accountable for them. Eve also refused to accept responsibility for her sin. She said it was the snake's fault. Is this starting to sound familiar? When we turn away from God, we turn against each other. We feel naked and exposed to the eyes of God and others when we do wrong. Then we try to cover it up by blaming

### Effects of hiding and not admitting sin

Proverbs 28:1, 13-  
14, 17

Psalms 32:1-7

Acts 5:1-10

someone else or pretending we are better than they. Then we try to regain honor and dignity by the way we look, what we drive, what we wear. We try to

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**When we turned away  
from God, we turned  
against each other**

---

seek glory in our status, our appearance of holiness, or crowd we associate with.

Nothing satisfies. It ends up excluding rather than loving others, loathing people who have differing viewpoints and lifestyles.

But there is hope for a cure. King David had grown to know God's mercy and love. When he was in despair over his horrible sin, instead of hiding from God he called out,

**"In you, LORD my God, I put my trust...No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame...Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old...according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good" (Psalm 25:1-7).**

God does not abandon his people, but steps in to bring a solution and restore us to him.

**The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work (1 John 3:8).**

More on that in the next chapters.



## CONNECTING TO YOUR DAILY LIFE

1. Outline some of the logic Satan uses to get us to disobey or turn away from God. Explain that process with the real temptations we face today.
2. Examine what happens when we think we are the center of the universe – that life is about our happiness and fulfillment instead of God's purposes and glory.
3. Name one thing that would bring you unbearable shame. What reactions might be against God's will? What responses might be in line with God's will?
4. Evaluate why it is so important in our lives to merely trust and obey God.
5. Pick out the one point that was most meaningful for you in this lesson.
6. Please pray to God based on this.



**DEVELOP A SUMMARY OF THE LESSON** – Write down and discuss a brief explanation of this lesson. Make it clear and simple enough to share with others. If possible, illustrate it with a drawing or diagram.



## **YOUR NEXT STEPS**

### **Study it!**

Read again more carefully the passages in this lesson to understand what God is saying.

### **Memorize it!**

Suggestion: Memorize **John 8:44, 47** (Or identify a different Bible passage in this lesson that is most meaningful for you).

### **Apply it!**

Discuss how you can put this lesson into your life this week.

### **Share it!**

Who especially needs to hear this? Determine how you will share this chapter with others. (You can use this lesson and its summary to help you).

*Go on to the next lesson to learn how sin infected all of humanity.*

## Chapter FIVE

# THE GLOBAL INFECTION

*The curse that sin brings on the world*

*✂ Share with each other a summary of the last lesson. Do you have questions?*



### Start with Your Life

They called it the Black Death. The Plague of the 1300's traveled the Silk Roads. It spread its infection throughout Asia and Europe. The death toll is estimated at anywhere between 75 million to 200 million. Some estimate that it wiped out half of Europe's population. Imagine the fear it caused since they did not know the cause, prevention, or the cure.

1. What infectious diseases do people fear today? Why?

Billions of dollars are spent looking for a cure for cancers and infectious diseases. But there is a far greater infection brought into this world by Adam and Eve. It needs a cure. It's eventual outcome - eternal death.

## CONSEQUENCES OF TURNING FROM GOD

1. Read Genesis 3:16-19. What did you especially note? What questions did it raise?

When Adam and Eve were first created they only knew good – that was all that existed in their world. Now they knew evil, the absence of good. Today, people recognize evil at its worst – the torture, abuse, and killing of innocent people. Evil is failure to meet the standard of goodness. That recognizes there is a existence of good that has been violated. But who sets the boundaries of morality? Who defines what is good? How you view Genesis 1-3 affects how you view evil.

**Not the way  
God created us**  
Ecclesiastes 7:29  
Malachi 1:6

God warned Adam and Eve that there would be effects if they acted outside of the image of God in which he made them. When you violate the law of gravity by jumping from a 50-story building, there are consequences – a cause and effect. When you jump away from trusting God and go your own way, there are also consequences.

**“The wages of sin is death”** (Rom 6:23)

When Adam and Eve disgraced God’s honor with their actions, all humanity was branded with the

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**All humanity would be  
branded with the family  
shame and affected by its  
consequences**

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family shame and  
affected by its  
consequences. The  
things that were  
meant to bring

fulfillment and joy became infested with pain and struggle. Bearing children would be painful. The unique bond of man and woman would turn into frustrating relationships and conflict. Work would be hard. The bountiful earth would be plagued with weeds to frustrate progress and take the joy out of work.

God had told Adam and Eve, **“when you eat of it, you will die.”** Their spiritual relationship with God did die that day and they would be banished from his presence. One day they would face physical death. God told them, **“for dust you are and to dust you will return”** (Genesis 3:19). In Genesis 5 you can read a list of descendants from Adam and Eve. Each one ends with the repetitive phrase **“and he died.”** The reality of death today is just another indication that the problem is still with us.

Instead of passing on to their children the image of God (Genesis 5:1-2), Adam and Eve passed on their image - their own sinful nature (Genesis 5:3). Adam and Eve already saw its evil effect when their oldest son Cain murdered his younger brother Abel out of jealousy in a fit of rage (Genesis 4:8). This was no longer the paradise God had built for them.



### Sin-cursed corruption of the heart

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Psalms 51:3-6

Matthew 15:16-20

### Adam's son Cain murders his brother Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

Within six more generations we see human creativity and culture advance. Cain's descendants Jabel, Jubel, and Tubal-Cain raised livestock, crafted and played instruments like harp and flute, and forged all kinds

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**Their focus wasn't on giving glory to the Creator but on selfish ends**

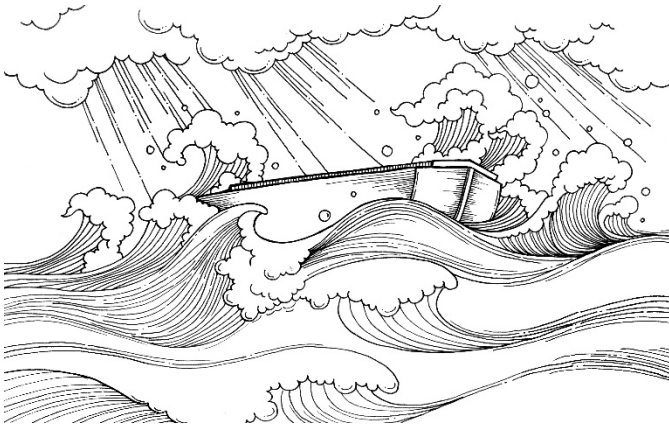
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of tools out of bronze (Genesis 4:17-22). But their focus wasn't on giving glory to the Creator but on

selfish ends. As more centuries passed, the world became more and more wicked and godless. God says it came to a point within humanity that

**"every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time"** (Genesis 6:5).

So, to purge the earth of its wickedness and prevent evil from completely taking over, God resolved to send a flood to wipe mankind from the face of the earth – except for one family. God flooded the earth with an upheaval of waters from below the earth and torrents of water from the heavens.



### **Cain's corruption**

Luke 11:50-51

Hebrews 11:4

1 John 3:11-12

### **The Flood**

Genesis 6-9

### **The Flood & God's Purifying Justice**

Matthew 24:36-42

Hebrews 11:7

2 Peter 3:3-11



The sudden burst of incredible power must have been thousands of times more devastating than the volcanos, tsunamis, typhoons, and earthquakes today and brought massive changes to the earth

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**Some believe the Great Flood is the main source of today's fossils**

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surface. The remarkable canyons may have been cut from the enormous torrent of receding water. Many believe

the Great Flood is a main source of today's fossils – countless dead creatures buried into rock layers with the pressure of the massive waters of the Flood. Populations of people and animals that existed at that time became buried under the immense weight of waters that covered even the highest mountains. But in his mercy, God preserved the family of Noah and a representative set of each animal kind to start new. They all survived the Great Flood on the ark that God had ordered Noah to build (Genesis 6-8). Humanity up to that point could trace back to Adam and Eve.

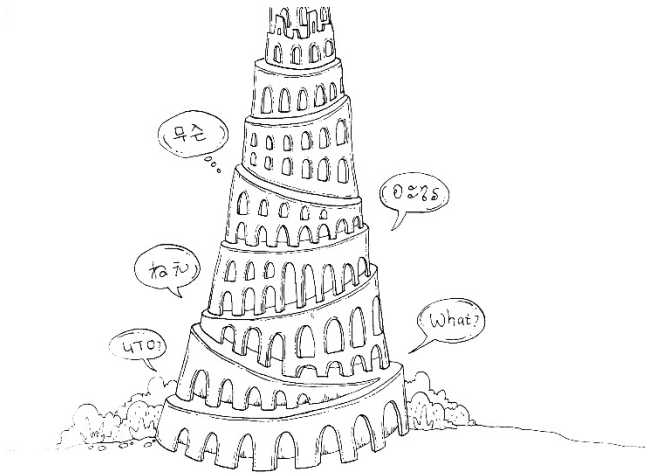
**"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth" (Act 17:26)**

Now from Noah's family we find the beginnings of all the races (Genesis 10). At that time they had been united under one language. But a new wave of unified rebellion again developed against God. People began building a tower known as Babel. It was to be a tribute to the greatness of human progress and defiant independence from God. Perhaps it was also to serve as a temple to gods of their making. To stop their unified dishonor and insult to God , God mixed up their languages so they

**All nations trace back to one person**

Acts 17:24-28

could no longer understand and communicate with each other.



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The resulting confusion scattered them into different regions of the earth (Genesis 11).

2. Review the early history of sin's infection into our world.

## THE GLOBAL INFECTION TODAY

Because we have a common ancestor in Adam and Eve, defiance against God became the very nature of

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**Sinful nature is like an  
hereditary disease  
handed down from sinful  
fathers and mothers**

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humanity. All  
children are now  
born with a sinful  
nature. We call it  
"original" or  
"inherited" sin. It

originates in the selfish and self-centered condition of our hearts. It is like an hereditary disease handed down from sinful fathers and mothers. From the moment we start to live, we are not the holy, pure, innocent people God originally created people to be. Like a cancer, sin spreads and corrupts. No matter what our ethnic background is or how zealous our attempts at holiness, complete depravity affects mankind,

**“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).**

Every nation could trace back to Noah’s family, a time when they could have known the one true God.

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**Instead of giving glory to God, people turned to other things to find satisfaction and acceptance and answers**

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God gave plenty of proof of his existence and love. The problem isn’t an absence of evidence of God but suppressing it.

Instead of giving glory to God, people turned to other things to find satisfaction, acceptance, and help – other things to worship.

**The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people... For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be**

**Called to give account before the Creator**

Matthew 12:33-37

Romans 3:9-20

Hebrews 4:12-13

wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts” (Romans 1:18-24).

3. What does this passage explain about our world today?

There is battle going on in the spiritual realm vying for our souls. Look behind the scenes,

**“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”** (Ephesians 6:12).

Life was created to find its full meaning and satisfaction in God above everything else. Yet we put ourselves as center of our world instead of God. We love ourselves, money, power, fame, property, and

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**We often live, plan, and act as if God doesn’t exist**

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other people more than we love God. In fact, we often live, plan, and act as if

God doesn’t exist. The same Satan who misled Adam and Eve is active today pretending he is a messenger of enlightenment and happiness. Apostle Peter says,

**“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”** (1 Peter 5:8).

**Treating everyone with equal love – honors their Creator & yours**

Proverbs 14:31

Proverbs 17:5

James 2:1-18



God tells us to love our neighbor as he has loved us. That should be natural to us. Instead, we fill our hearts with thoughts of anger and hatred toward others who God also has loved. Our ambition to be independent from God leads us to become unloving, greedy, lustful, and self-serving. It shows up in disobedience to authority and lack of respect for our elders. It surfaces in sexual abuse, pornography and other behaviors that destroys marriage. It emerges with stealing, lying, gossiping, and other actions that hurt or destroy other people.

It is no wonder the world struggles to define morality - the nature of good and the definition of evil. We have lost that image of God and replaced his holiness with our own human standards. Jesus was a master at revealing what lies inside of us. Jesus pointed to the human condition so accurately that it cut to the hearts of people's lives. He shows that nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight (Hebrews 4:9-16). Nothing is a secret from God. His word convicts us too. The Bible remind us that just one improper attitude or act of disobedience is

**Jesus knows how  
we think and  
secret details of  
our lives**

Samaritan Woman  
(John 4:1-31)

Pharisees  
(Matthew 23:1-23)

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**The Bible reminds us that just one improper attitude or act of disobedience is enough to bring us under God's judgment**

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enough to reveal we are rebellious sinners under God's judgment and the curse of sin.

**"Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law"**  
(Galatians 3:10)

**"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it" (James 2:10).**



We have stumbled far more than just with one sin against God. We sin many times in many ways each day. Because our sinfulness is a crime against God, we stand guilty before God. We all deserve to suffer the same punishment for our sins that God prepared for the devil, God's eternal judgment in hell.

**"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal**

**fire prepared for the devil and his angels”**  
(Matthew 25:41).

The human heart still hungers for a relationship with

**It is important to start  
acknowledging and  
confessing where the  
problem lies - inside of us**

God and feels the  
need for atonement  
– for sins to be  
wiped out. It is  
important to start  
acknowledging and  
confessing where

the problem lies – inside of us. Humbled by God’s  
glory in the face of our sin, Ezra prayed:

**“I am too ashamed and disgraced, my God, to  
lift up my face to you, because our sins are  
higher than our heads and our guilt has reached  
to the heavens. From the days of our  
ancestors until now, our guilt has been great”**  
Ezra 9:6-7

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but  
desires that they turn from their ways and live.

4. What most caught your attention in this  
section?

**Recognizing and  
Confessing Sin**

Ezra 9:1-15

Psalms 51

**God calls the  
sinner back to  
himself**

Ezekiel 33:10-11

Luke 15:7, 10, 17-21

1 Timothy 2:3-6

## THE GOD FOR US

The world is full of hurting people. Lives and  
relationships are broken. For many, life seems  
detached, lonely, and hopeless. How you view

evolution or creation impacts where you view the solution lies.

God is not some distant deity unconcerned about the details of our lives. God is also a God of love. He knew that people deserved nothing but his punishment. Yet, he still desired to have us with him in heaven. God knew the solution couldn't come from us or anything we do. We are part of the problem. The solution can only come from God and his mercy.

In Genesis Three, right after Adam and Eve sinned, God revealed his anger at the devil and the damage

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**Even before explaining the consequences of sin, God announced the first promise of the Savior**

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Satan caused. Even before explaining the consequences of sin, God announced the first promise of the Savior. God pledged

to Adam and Eve and all of humanity that he would send a champion to undo the damage. The Lord said to the devil,

**...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (followers) and hers; he (one of her offspring) will crush your head, and you will strike his heel"** (Genesis 3:15)

One of Eve's descendants would take the battlefield against the devil. The devil would inflict pain on the Savior, but in the end, the Savior would crush the devil in defeat. Now at least there was hope.

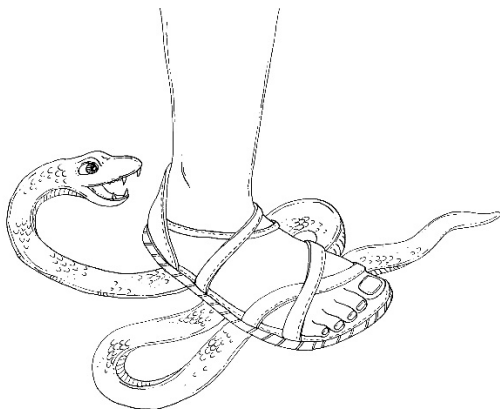
**God, our Creator, invites us to seek him for the solution**

Psalm 62:1-8

Psalm 146

Acts 17:26-27





In mercy God gave Adam and Eve garments made of animal skins for them. That means an animal had to die to cover their physical shame. But one day a Savior would die to cover their spiritual

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**One day a Savior would die to cover their spiritual shamefulness before the eyes of God**

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shamefulness before the eyes of God. In mercy God drove sinful Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. He protected them from eating from the Tree of Life so that humanity would not be doomed to live in a sin-cursed world forever. God had better things planned. Adam named his wife "Eve" (meaning "Life") because by faith he believed that she would be the mother of all the living. One day another woman would give birth to the Savior who would give life to all who believe. This is where hope and happiness enter the world again.

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn**

**the world, but to save the world through him”**  
(John 3:16-17).

This is the good news we will discuss in the coming chapter.

5. Explain that first promise that gave hope for life to Adam and Eve and all who followed them in faith.



## **CONNECTING TO YOUR DAILY LIFE**

1. Discuss how people become sinful. Where does it start?
2. Give examples of how sinfulness shows itself in our world... in your community...in your life?
3. How will it affect your requests and relationship with God when you recognized he is Creator and we are accountable to him?
4. Summarize what God promised as the cure for the infection of sin. How does that give hope to your life?

5. Pick out the one point that was most meaningful for you in this lesson.
6. Please pray to God based on this.



**DEVELOP A SUMMARY OF THE LESSON** – Write down and discuss a brief explanation of this lesson. Make it clear and simple enough to share with others. If possible, illustrate it with a drawing or diagram.



## **YOUR NEXT STEPS**

### **Study it!**

Read again more carefully the passages in this lesson to understand what God is saying.

### **Memorize it!**

Suggestion: Memorize **James 2:10** (Or identify a different Bible passage in this lesson that is most meaningful for you).

### **Apply it!**

Discuss how you can put this lesson into your life this week.

**Share it!**

Who especially needs to hear this? Determine how you will share this chapter with others. (You can use this lesson and its summary to help you).

*Go on to the next lesson to learn how God fulfilled his promise.*

## Chapter SIX

### A NEW CREATION

*Justice and love meet together*

*✂ Share with each other a summary of the last lesson. Do you have questions?*



#### Start with Your Life

Don't you wish things could be perfect again like they were in the Garden of Eden? What would it take? What would it be like? Different people lead us to believe that they can make this world a heaven on earth. Leaders promise that they will bring about change and make it a new world. But where has it gotten us after all these centuries?

1. Discuss some of the hopes that people cling to or promises people make that they can fix the problems of the world. What is the result?

All the efforts over thousands of years have not created a world of peace and harmony. In some ways, people seem filled with more anxiety. We have not eliminated the wickedness or wars. We have not cured all the diseases or social problems. We try to fix the problem, but we are the problem. That is why God made a promise in Genesis 3 that he would provide a special offspring of Eve to be our champion, our Messiah. He would to crush the devil and give us a new world again.

## **FOLLOWING THE PROMISE IN HISTORY**

The golden thread of God's promise is the key theme of the Bible. In Genesis 12, about 2,000 years before Jesus was born, God announced to Abraham that the promised Savior would come from his descendants and be the blessing for all the peoples on earth (Genesis 12:2-3).



Another 1,000 years after Abraham, God told King David that someone from his royal family would rule a kingdom far greater than his – one that would last forever (2 Samuel 7:16). Later the prophet Isaiah,

writing by the inspiration of God, added more detail about the long-anticipated event which was still 700 years away.

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders...He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever” (Isaiah 9:6-7)**

Finally, just over 2,000 years ago, God told a young virgin woman named Mary that she would be the mother of the Savior (Luke 1:26-38). Others might have thought this was an unplanned pregnancy, but it was planned from before the creation of the earth

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**Here, at last, after thousands upon thousands of years was Eve’s promised offspring**

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(1 Peter 1:20). Here, at last, was Eve’s promised offspring who would restore us to God. The child would enter the

world not contaminated by the sinful nature that plagues us but have the holiness of God. This miracle child would be conceived without any involvement of a human father but by the direct life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. His parents were told, **“You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20-21)**

2. Review the key characters in the golden thread of history that follows the promise of a Savior.

### **The birth of Jesus**

Matthew 1

Luke 1:26-56,

2:1-20

### **Jesus / God = the beginning and the End**

Revelation 1:8, 17;  
21:5-7; 22:13

## THE CREATOR BECOMES ONE OF US

John starts his Gospel book with the same first three words of Genesis 1 to reveal the origin of Jesus.

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth... No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known” (John 1:1-3, 14, 18)**

3. Reflect on the descriptions of the Word in passage above. What does it tell us about Jesus?



**Jesus – the visible expression of God’s Love**

John 3:16-18

John 17:6-8, 25-26

1 John 4:9-12

**Jesus, the Creator, added to himself the full nature of humanity**

Galatians 4:4-5

Philippians 2:5-8

Colossians 1:15-17



This child born to Mary was the same Word who spoke the world into existence in six days. The Bible says,

Through his Son, God **“made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word”** (Hebrews 1:3)

**“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him”** (Colossians 1:16).

The Creator himself steps in to save his creation. The Son of God, equal with God the Father and God the

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**The Creator himself  
steps in to save his  
creation**

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Holy Spirit from eternity, is now born into our world as a helpless child in Bethlehem as he adds to himself the nature of

a human. Through Jesus, the invisible God becomes “incarnate” - real to us in flesh and blood. That is why he is called “Immanuel,” which means “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23). Just as the first Adam represented all of humanity by his actions, so also Jesus became the “second Adam” to represent all of humanity by what he came to do. He came not as our example but as our substitute. Satan approached him also. Jesus was **“tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin”** (Hebrews 4:15). He become true human like us so he could take our place under the expectations and judgment of God’s holy law, which Adam failed to do. Only as true God could Jesus live in the way that perfectly matched up

**The first Adam  
and the second  
Adam (Jesus)**

Romans 5:12-19

1 Corinthians 15:20-  
23, 45-49

with the glory of God as a replacement for our stained lives.

4. Summarize who Jesus is.

## THE EVENT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Jesus lived a pure life, yet Jesus hung on a cross to die a criminal's shameful death. Why? What those watching couldn't see was Jesus taking on to himself the full shame of humanity's disrespect for God.



Jesus, as both God and man, would carry the guilt of the sins of the world in God's court of justice. He accepted the verdict on himself. He paid its ultimate price. In this one event in history, God showed evil

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**God showed the full extent of his love as he wiped out the record of our sins**

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for what it was. Here God inflicted his full and righteous judgment on to his Son. Jesus

**Someone needed to be the sacrifice**

Isaiah 53:4-5

Romans 3:23-26

Hebrews 9:11-28

**Pictures of forgiveness**

Hebrews 10:14-18

Psalm 51:7-12

Psalm 103:1-5, 10-12

Micah 7:18-19

was forsaken by God and suffered the hell we were doomed to share with Satan. But there on the cross, God also showed the full extent of his love as he wiped out the record of our sins. And just before he died, Jesus cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30) – the debt and penalty of sin is paid in full. Because of everything Jesus did in our place, God declares the whole world "not guilty." He paid the ransom to free us from enslavement to sin so we could live in the freedom to love and serve God.

**"In (Jesus) we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).**

Jesus didn't remain in the grave where they laid his dead and lifeless body. On the third day he came alive again. His resurrection from death was proof that God has made peace with us. It declared that Jesus had crushed the power of death and the devil and claimed his place as victorious king. Forty days later Jesus ascended to heaven so we could receive glory.

**[Jesus is] "now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone... bringing many sons and daughters to glory" (Hebrews 2:9-10).**

Adam and Eve's sin disqualified humanity from God's acceptance. But God the Father associates us with his exalted Son Jesus, he grants us exalted worth and dignity and restored us to a royal status as his children. His life, not ours, qualifies us.

## **Pictures of forgiveness**

Psalm 103:1-17

Isaiah 1:18

Micah 7:18-19

Hebrews 10:17-18

## **Jesus- crowned with glory**

John 17:4-5, 24

2 Corinthians 3:18

Hebrews 1:3, 3:3-4

Philippians 2:9-10

## **He qualified us for his glory**

Romans 8:17-21

1 Corinthians  
15:42-57

2 Peter 2:4-10

**"The Father... has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1:12).**

Jesus cleared our name and restored us to a direct and welcoming relationship with God, our heavenly

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**Jesus cleared our name  
and restored us to a  
relationship with God, our  
heavenly Father**

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Father – the way creation was meant to be. No one else could do that. Now because of Jesus, God views us as

**"holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation –" (Colossians 1: 22).**

5. Summarize the event where Jesus repaired the damage brought into this world by sin.

**No more shame**

Hebrews 12:2-3

Romans 10:10-11

2 Timothy 1:7-12

**Jesus gives us  
access to God**

Romans 5:1-2

Ephesians 2:17-22

Hebrews 10:19-23

## **A NEW CREATION IN US**

Unbelief would keep us hiding from God like Adam and Eve did initially. It causes us to live in fear, shame, and darkness. But God loved the unlovable. He accepts you not because of how great you are, or how great you need to be. He accepts you because of how great Jesus was. He wants you to know that and believe it. So the Creator makes another miracle happen in us using the same powerful Word that brought the universe into being.

**"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's**

**Getting a new  
heart**

Psalms 51:7-12

Ezekiel 36:24-26

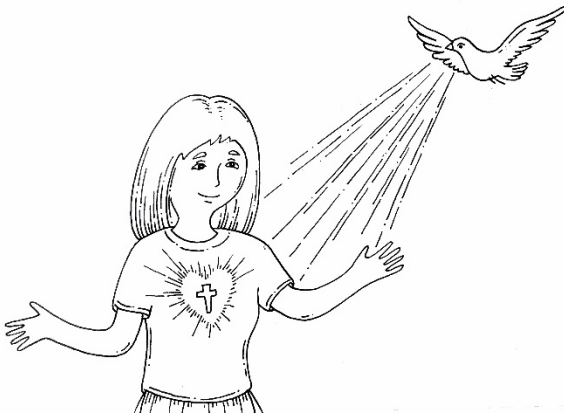
Hebrews 8:6-13  
10:16-18

**glory displayed in the face of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).**

God, the Holy Spirit, creates something new inside of us –

**"...the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Colossians 3:8-10)**

The new self is the life of faith. Imagine it like a surgeon saving a patient by giving him a new heart. It pumps new life into his body.



The Holy Spirit gives us a new spiritual heart that begins to transform our lives. Just as God made

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**Like a spiritual heart  
transplant it transforms  
our lives**

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Adam and Eve in  
the image of God,  
he re-shapes our  
lives into his  
image. It gains  
strength as we

exercise it by putting off the ugliness of the sinful nature and put on the righteousness Christ gave us.

**Divine power to  
live a godly life**

Ephesians 1:17-23

Titus 2:11-14

2 Peter 1:3-11

**Life is about  
reflecting God's  
glory**

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

Philippians 1:12-21

1 Peter 4:13-16

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

That part of us no longer lives for selfish purposes, but for God's glory demonstrated by love for others.

6. Describe the new creation in us.

## **A NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH**

Many times we focus so intently on this earth and the

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**We should not be too attached or absorbed in the things of the world**

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things related to it that we lose focus that the best things yet to come. The apostle Paul tells us

that we should not be too attached or absorbed in the things of this world.

**"For this world in its present form is passing away" (1 Corinthians 7:31).**

This earth is not the final destination, but only part of the journey. King David writes of God,

**"In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but ...you remain the same, and your years will never end." (Psalm 102:25-28, Hebrews 1:10-12).**

There are better things ahead. Jesus told his followers he would return to heaven to prepare a

**The creation groans under sin's effect**

Romans 8:19-22

**The end of the earth**

Mark 13:7-8,24-37

2 Peter 3:3-14

place for them – a paradise more glorious than the one he made for Adam and Eve. He prayed,

**“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world” (John 17:24).**

And when Jesus returns, he will cover our shame with his righteousness to welcome us into his glory.

**“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world” (Matthew 25:34).**



Paradise has been restored. The tree of life that the angels guarded from Adam and Eve, is the tree of life we now have access to by washing our robes in the blood of Jesus that makes us clean (Revelation 7:14).

**“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).**

## **Our new home of glory**

John 14:1-7

Revelation 5:6-14

Revelation 21-22

## **Tree of Life**

Genesis 3:22-24

Revelation 2:7;

22:2, 12-14

As much as we are amazed at the breath-taking beauty and microscopic details of this creation, nothing compares with the amazement of seeing

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**Nothing compares with the amazement of seeing Jesus and heaven**

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Jesus and heaven. Revelation describes it with the imagery and brilliance of a precious jewel – a city of pure glass-like

gold. No sin will ever be able to corrupt our new home. There will be no sorrow, no sickness, no loveless acts, no death to separate us from each other. We will forever see the face of our Savior and live with him in perfect happiness.

Until that time, life will still have struggles. We will constantly battle the sinful nature that still remains in us. We will still encounter the sinful actions of others that attack us. We will feel the physical effects of

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**Our struggles of life develop in us a longing for the paradise of God**

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disease and decay, failure and tragedy. Those struggles of life not only help us trust in God in the

journey but also develop in us a longing for the paradise of God (2 Timothy 4:8), the new heavens and new earth where righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:13). Such knowledge moves us to join those in heaven with in awe and worship saying,

**“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being” (Revelation 4:11).**

**“Worthy is the Lamb (Jesus), who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and**

**Jesus’  
righteousness  
covers our  
nakedness of sin**

Isaiah 61:10

Galatians 3:26-29

Revelation 3:17-18

Revelation 7:9-17

**The necessity of  
acknowledging  
Jesus as the only  
Savior and Lord**

Matthew 10:32-33

Romans 10:8-17

1 John 4:13-19



**strength and honor and glory and praise!"**  
(Revelation 5:12).

**"With your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.<sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth"** (Revelation 5:9-10).



We are part of God's story continuing his rule of the earth through our lives of service to him. This is the eternal life we can pass on to generations to know the Creator and his story and to learn the joy of living in our God through Jesus our Savior.

**Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen"** (1 Timothy 1:17).

7. Describe what you know about heaven and the greatness of being there some day.

**Jesus chose you before creation**

Jeremiah 1:5

John 15:3-8, 15-16

Romans 8:28-39

Ephesians 1:1-16

**Tell the next generations**

Psalm 78:3-7

Psalm 102:18, 25-28

1 Peter 2:9, 3:15-16

Acts 26:17-18



## **CONNECTING TO YOUR DAILY LIFE**

1. Discuss how people try to make up for their wrong doing before God or seek his acceptance. How is that different from what we learn from Jesus?
2. Decide on ways that you can live according to the new creation, the new self, that the Holy Spirit creates in you.
3. How does a longing for heaven help us through the struggles or distractions of our life and keep our lives in proper perspective?
4. Pick out the one point that was most meaningful for you in this lesson.
5. Please pray to God based on this.



**DEVELOP A SUMMARY OF THE LESSON** – Write down and discuss a brief explanation of this lesson. Make it clear and simple enough to share with others. If possible, illustrate it with a drawing or diagram.



## **YOUR NEXT STEPS**

### **Study it!**

Read again more carefully the passages in this lesson to understand what God is saying.

### **Memorize it!**

Suggestion: Memorize **John 1:1-3, 14** (Or identify a different Bible passage in this lesson that is most meaningful for you).

### **Apply it!**

Discuss how you can put this lesson into your life this week.

### **Share it!**

Who especially needs to hear this? Determine how you will share this chapter with others. (You can use this lesson and its summary to help you).

# APPENDIX One

## THE ORIGIN OF LIFE - SUMMARIES

### Chapter One – THE CAUSE OF LIFE

Ancient religions and faith traditions say some sort of divine being is the cause of the beginnings of the world. Others tell us that our complex world evolved as the result of unguided natural causes that happened over billions of years. But because no human has actually seen the beginning, it takes faith to believe those stories. The world is too complex and orderly to happen by chance. It owes its existence to something, something that was there before there was anything. We need to get our answers from the only One who was there when the world began. God was there. God is the only reliable witness of things we cannot see. God convinces us of his story through his inspired writers in the Bible. An awe-inspiring God and a supernatural world will remain a mystery to human logic and scientific study. God is not restricted to the forces of nature we observe in our world. In the Bible, God gives us the missing insights. It is more than learning about the origins of the world. It is discovering how we can have a joyful and eternal relationship with the God who put us here.

### Chapter Two – THE ORDERLY DESIGN OF THE WORLD

Most scientists recognize that the universe had a beginning. If nothing existed, what started the chain of events? The more we learn about the natural world, the more it reinforces that it had a Creator, Architect, Artist, Engineer – God himself. The creation falls into the category of miracles – things only God can do. Miracles go beyond the laws of nature. In this case it set the laws of nature in motion. God did not need any existing material. He made it out of nothing. God just spoke and each part of the world came into existence.

On the first day, God created light and set in motion a consistent division and rhythm of the day and night. On the second day, God separated the waters on the earth from the waters above it. God called

the space between the waters, “the sky.” On the third day, God shaped the surface of the earth. He created boundaries for the oceans and made dry land appear. Then he created beautiful and useful plants and fruit trees as nourishing food for those for the world’s inhabitants. On the fourth day, God created visible forms that would now provide the light in the sky. The sun, the moon, and the stars would “separate the day from the night.” On the fifth day, God makes creatures of the sky and the seas. On the sixth day God made the wild animals, domestic and farm animals, and reptiles. They all produced “according to their kinds.” On the sixth day, God also made Adam and Eve, the first people on this earth.

After six days, the world did not lack anything to function perfectly in every way. Then on the seventh day, the Bible tells us, “He rested.” God remains involved through the natural systems set in place and in sustaining and directing it according to his purposes.

### Chapter Three – **THE CROWNING FEATURE OF CREATION**

Why are we so advanced beyond animals? When you look at the vastness of the universe, we appear as merely a small speck on a small planet. We ask, “Who am I? Why do I exist?” We were no mere accident of nature or unguided chance. God personally formed the first man from the dust of the earth. Then God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

Adam recognized his life was not complete without a suitable companion. So God put Adam into a deep sleep. While Adam was asleep, God removed one of Adam’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. They would become “one flesh.” In this inter-dependent relationship the man and the woman were to intimately share their lives with each other. Jesus also refers to Genesis two to describe the origin of marriage and God’s divine design behind it. The design and desire for sexual union of a husband and wife would also generate another miracle of new life - children.

The unrivaled and majestic God, the supreme ruler of the universe, formed this first man and woman “in his image, his own likeness.” God had given them a soul that reflected God’s own character to have an intimate relationship with God. God gave Adam and Eve the authority and ability to be managers of the living creatures God created. It was royal status that was to represent God to creation. With the creation of Adam and Eve, everything was complete and perfect – a mature functioning world.

## Chapter Four – **THE ORIGIN OF EVIL**

Somewhere during the days of creation, God created spiritual beings called angels. They were part of God’s systems to take care of Adam and Eve and their offspring. One of the powerful angels, known in the Bible as the devil or Satan, wanted the authority and honor that belongs to God alone. Many other angels also chose to follow Satan’s rebellion.

God placed Adam and Eve in a special garden, called the Garden of Eden. God gave them only one restriction, “You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” But using the form of a snake, the devil approached Eve. The devil said, “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

With that action, God’s love was betrayed, and his glory dishonored. That day their spiritual life died. Adam and Eve hid because they no longer could see and feel God’s love. Shame, guilt, and fear flooded over them because they knew they had become entirely shameful to God. Instead of being free and happy in their former innocence, they became self-conscious and embarrassed by their nakedness. They tried to cover up their shame with fig leaves. Adam selfishly put the blame on Eve. Eve said it was the snake’s fault. When they turned away from God to seek

forgiveness, they turned against each other. God does not abandon his people, but steps in to bring a solution and restore us to him.

## Chapter Five – **THE GLOBAL INFECTION**

Billions of dollars are spent looking for a cure for cancers and infectious diseases. But there is a far greater infection brought into this world by Adam and Eve. It needs a cure. It's eventual outcome – eternal death. When Adam and Eve were first created they only knew good – that was all that existed in their world. When Adam and Eve disgraced God's honor with their actions, all humanity was branded with the family shame and affected by its consequences. The things that were meant to bring fulfillment and joy became infested with pain and struggle. God had told Adam and Eve, "when you eat of it, you will die." Their spiritual relationship with God did die that day and they would be banished from his presence. One day they would face physical death. Instead of passing on to their children the image of God Adam and Eve passed on their image - their own sinful nature. As more centuries passed, the world became more and more wicked and godless. So, to purge the earth of its wickedness and prevent evil from completely taking over, God resolved to send a flood to wipe mankind from the face of the earth – except for one family. Many believe the Great Flood is a main source of today's fossils. But in his mercy, God preserved the family of Noah and a representative set of each animal kind to start new. Now from Noah's family we find the beginnings of all the races. People began building a tower known as Babel to be a defiant independence from God. To stop their unified dishonor and insult to God, God mixed up their languages and scattered them into different regions of the earth.

Because we have a common ancestor in Adam and Eve, defiance against God became the very nature of humanity. All children are now born with a sinful nature. We call it "original" or "inherited" sin. It originates in the selfish and self-centered condition of our hearts. The Bible remind us that just one improper attitude or act of disobedience is enough to reveal we are rebellious sinners under God's judgment and

the curse of sin. We all deserve to suffer the same punishment for our sins that God prepared for the devil, God's eternal judgment in hell.

The human heart still hungers for a relationship with God and feels the need for atonement – for sins to be wiped out. It is important to start acknowledging and confessing where the problem lies – inside of us. Even before explaining the consequences of sin, God announced the first promise of the Savior. God pledged to Adam and Eve and all of humanity that he would send a champion to undo the damage. One of Eve's descendants would crush the devil in defeat. One day another woman would give birth to the Savior who would give life to all who believe.

## Chapter Six – **A NEW CREATION**

All the efforts over thousands of years have not created a world of peace and harmony. God made a promise that he would provide a special offspring of Eve to be our champion, our Messiah. God announced to Abraham that the promised Savior would come from his descendants. God told King David that someone from his royal family would rule a kingdom far greater than his – one that would last forever. Finally, just over 2,000 years ago, God told a young virgin woman named Mary that she would be the mother of the Savior. Here, at last was Eve's promised offspring who would restore us to God. This child born to Mary was the same Word who spoke the world into existence in six days. The Creator himself steps in to save his creation. Jesus became the "second Adam" to represent all of humanity by what he came to do. He came not as our example but as our substitute. Only as true God could he live in the way that perfectly matched up with the glory of God as a replacement for our stained lives. Jesus hung on a cross to die a criminal's shameful death. He was forsaken by God and suffered the hell we were doomed to share with Satan. And just before he died, Jesus cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30) – the debt and penalty of sin is paid in full. On the third day he came alive again. His resurrection from death was proof that God has made peace with us.

But God the Father associates us with his exalted Son Jesus, he grants us exalted worth and dignity and restored us to a royal status as his



children. He accepts you because of how great Jesus was. He wants you to know that and believe it. So the Creator makes another miracle happen in us using the same powerful Word that brought the universe into being. Just as God made Adam and Eve in the image of God, he reshapes our lives into his image. This earth is not the final destination, but only part of the journey. There are better things ahead. And when Jesus returns, he will cover our shame with his righteousness to welcome us into his glory. The tree of life that the angels guarded from Adam and Eve, is the tree of life we now have access to by washing our robes in the blood of Jesus that makes us clean. As much as we are amazed at the breath-taking beauty and microscopic details of this creation, nothing compares with the amazement of seeing Jesus and heaven. Meanwhile, we are part of God's story continuing his rule of the earth through our lives of service to him.

## APPENDIX Two

### The CREEDS

#### The First Article *of the* **APOSTLES' CREED** *(of Creation)*

*With Dr. Martin Luther's explanation*

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

## THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from  
Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one  
being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was  
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became  
fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered  
death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with  
the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world  
to come. Amen.

## APPENDIX Three

### Prayers

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

#### **For the Blessings of God's Creation**

Lord God, open my eyes to the beauty of your created world. You made all things to nourish my life and to fill me with wonder and joy. Open my mouth to regularly praise and thank you for your gifts and make me a good steward of all you have entrusted to us. Amen.

#### **For Strength to Accept God's Will**

Father, give me strength and willingness to say with your Son, "Not my will by your will be done." Make me cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to me – the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Only keep me from sin, Lord God, comfort me with your kind Word, and help me represent you to the people I meet. In Jesus name I ask this. Amen.

#### **Luther's Evening Prayer**

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.







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