



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 23

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 23: Humanity: Created and Blessed by God

Scriptures:

Genesis 1:26-29; Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3; Genesis 5:1-3; Psalm 139:13-16; Romans 2:12-16; 6:9-31; 7:14-25; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 4:4

Lesson Goals:

To understand that humans are God's creation.
To see humans as the highest of God's creation.
To understand that humans chose to sin against God which placed them all under the curse of sin.

Scripture Memory:

So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

The Lesson:

Do your friends sometimes disappoint you? Do you ever wish that you could have just one friend who could be everything that you would like them to be? Wouldn't it be nice to just build a friend who would be kind and loyal, defend you against those who want to hurt you, be there for you every time you need them, have fun with you when you feel good, and be sad with you when you are sad? Well, even if you could build someone like that, when that person got involved with other people, your creation would probably be influenced by them, and your special friend would change.

God created humans. The fact that God did this at the end of His work of creation is significant. Humans are the most important thing in God's creation. Humans are created in the image of God. That means that humans are like God. It doesn't mean that humans are like God in every way. It does mean that humans have an eternal existence...we won't cease to exist when we die. It does mean that God created us spiritually to be like Him. Humans have a soul that can relate to who God is. Our connection with God is from our spirit to His Spirit.

Each person has both a soul and a body. The body is temporary. All humans die. But their soul lives on. So, as some have said, we are not a body with a soul, we are a soul with a body.

God gave humans responsibility. The first two humans, Adam and Eve, were given instructions about what their task was. They were to take care of everything that God had created.

God did make one rule. They were not to eat the fruit of one of the trees in the Garden of Eden, where they lived. And it did not take long, it seems, for Adam and Eve to break that rule and eat the fruit.

When we break God's rules, we sin. Sometimes we do things that hurt other humans, animals, or something else in God's creation. If we do that, God says that it is a sin against the human or other part of creation. And sin, anytime we do it, is also against God. If you tell a lie, you may sin against another human, but you also sin against God. If you disobey God, it may hurt another human or another part of God's creation, but it is first a sin against God.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God had to send them out of the garden. Their sin also meant that all humans, born after that, inherited the bad effect of that sin. So, all humans are sinners from birth and all humans need their sins forgiven. Jesus does that.

The Bible tells us that God created humans so that He could have fellowship with them. God wanted friends on earth. It is because God intended this that we, as humans, are the special recipients of His love.

God spent time with Eve and Adam each day talking and having a good time with them. The Bible says that God would walk in the garden each evening with them. We can also have a personal relationship with God. When we invite Him into our hearts, we begin a friendship that will never go away. Jesus makes that possible.

Life Application:

As much as we love our friends, and they us, they will disappoint us. The one friend who will never disappoint us is God. Sometimes, because of our choices, predispositions, or perceptions, it may appear that God has forsaken or disappointed us. Man was created for a friendship with God. When we choose a relationship with Him, He will be our one True Friend. It is impossible for Him to disappoint us. It was His love for us that sent Jesus to the cross. Man had damaged the friendship that God desired. That friendship was damaged by sin. It was damaged by Adam's sin. It was damaged by Eve's sin. It was damaged by your sin. All of us have sinned. Sin is choosing our way over God's way. The punishment for sin is death. We deserve to die for choosing our limited ideas over the plans of the God of the universe. But instead of leaving us to our sin and its punishment, God loved us. He showed us that love by sending His only Son, Jesus. Jesus took our sin and its punishment upon Him on the cross. Jesus made a way for us to be right with God. Jesus is the Way. No one can come to God unless they come through Jesus. Do you desire a friendship that will not disappoint you? Do you long to have someone you can trust in? Will you come to God and accept His offer of friendship?

What if you live secure in the fact that you are God's friend? We can learn a lot from Galatians 5:13-26. We read, "Don't use your freedom as an excuse to live in sin. Instead, serve on another in love. . . . 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" Choosing a friendship with God frees us from sin. But we sometimes choose sin anyway. Why would someone free from sin ever want to go back? We sometimes choose our wants and desires over God's. But that doesn't mean we need to "accept Him" again. What we need when that happens is forgiveness. When we tell God what we have done, and when we want to turn away from it, even though God already knows what we have done, He will forgive us. That's part of the friendship we have with God. Even when we do the wrong thing, we should run straight to Him, not away from Him, trying to hide. He's always ready for time with us!



Planning for Lesson 24
Humanity:
Human Nature



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Review the memory verse many times. Ask your students for the names of the male and female who were created. (Adam and Eve) Talk about the meanings of their names. **Adam** - the Hebrew word for "man". It may come from the Hebrew (*adamah*) for "earth". **Eve** - Life; living. From the Hebrew (*Chawah*), which comes from the word "to breathe," "to live".

Discuss some of the names of God; for example, Elohim (Creator), Jehovah (LORD, Self-Existent one), Jehovah-Jireh (the LORD Provides), etc. Find the meanings of your students names.

- ◆ Look online for information about how wonderfully created our anatomy is. Discuss God's creativity. Read Psalm 139:13-16.
- ◆ If you remember Punnet squares from Biology class, do a few experiments. Talk about dominant and recessive genes and plan them out to see the probability of certain characteristics.
- ◆ Run a relay. Instead of the animal relays of last week, this relay deals with anatomy. Run one leg of the race with a ball suspended between the lower back of two team members. Run the next leg with two team members each holding the ball together in their hands. Continue, being creative with ways to "carry" the ball. (Idea thanks to "The Games-in-a-Box Book" by Convention Press.)
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read Romans 6:9-31 and 7:14-25. Be sure to look at 1 Corinthians 4:4 as well. Discuss the battle with sin that we struggle with. End the discussion stressing Christ's sacrifice and God's grace.

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

Genesis 1:27



Fill in the blanks with the missing letter. When you have completed the sentence, rewrite the underlined letters in order below to discover how humans are created.

Humans are the most
_ _ port _ nt thin _

in God's
cr _ ation.

Humans are created in the

— — — — —

of God.

Word Search



M A C R E T A V E N O I T
A D E G A M E L U O S I M
L A K N S S E T I O D A T
E A T E R N L V C I M A D
L D N O I T A E R C G E M
G A S R N A L E V A D M T
I M L I E K N S E E S N I
O U S L I T C R E A I T O
N I C L I K E N E S S O U
L I K E M A D A D O J K N
G O B K A O I N C R E A S
A K L E G K N S E G A M E
M N S I E T I O V E L U O

God

image

sin

soul

eternal

Eve

likeness

Adam

creation

Word Search



M	A	C	R	E	T	A	V	E	N	O	I	T
A	D	E	G	A	M	E	L	U	O	S	I	M
L	A	K	N	S	S	E	T	I	O	D	A	T
E	A	T	E	R	N	L	V	C	I	M	A	D
L	D	N	O	I	T	A	E	R	C	G	E	M
G	A	S	R	N	A	L	E	V	A	D	M	T
I	M	L	I	E	K	N	S	E	E	S	N	I
O	U	S	L	I	T	C	R	E	A	I	T	O
N	I	C	L	I	K	E	N	E	S	S	O	U
L	I	K	E	M	A	D	A	D	O	J	K	N
G	O	B	K	A	O	I	N	C	R	E	A	S
A	K	L	E	G	K	N	S	E	G	A	M	E
M	N	S	I	E	T	I	O	V	E	L	U	O

God

image

sin

soul

eternal

Eve

likeness

Adam

creation