

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 24

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Lesson 24: Humanity: Human Nature

Scriptures:

Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8; Isaiah 6-8; Isaiah 57:14-19; Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 6:25, 18:1-5; Romans 2:5; 7:4-6, 14-25; I Corinthians 2:13-16; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 2:1-10

Lesson Goals:

To show that humans are relational
To show that humans are made in the image of God
To show that humans are sinners by nature

Scripture Memory:

Behold, I belong to God like you; I too have been formed out of the clay. Job 33:6

The Lesson:

Sometimes when we do things, and right or wrong, we are told that it is just human nature to do that. It may be that someone is trying to hurt us and we fight back. It may be that we fear something without fully understanding why. Human nature is something that just goes with being human. You can't always explain why you do certain things.

Someone might say, "That is just the way God made us." And, in some ways that is true. It is not true, however, that everything we do can be blamed on God. We are not robots or puppets.

Humans were made in the image of God. That means that in our doing and being, we reflect who God is. The most important thing we need to know is that God created humans with a free will. That means that since we are like God, we make our own decisions. God doesn't tell us what to do. We aren't puppets...with God pulling the strings. We aren't robots who can only act like God the Father programs us to act. We have freedom of will, and we create our own way of doing things.

There is a part of human nature that makes us want relationships. We need to have family and friendships. Very few people are happy in complete isolation...being all by themselves all the time. When we grow up, almost all of us want to find a person who can be our special helper and live with that person for the rest of our lives. That is called marriage. God created us to need one another.

Also, all of us need a relationship with someone greater than humans. Some have called this a "God hunger." Everyone, whether we recognize it or not, has this feeling inside us that really wants to know and be close to God. This is the work of God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks to our spirit and tells us that there is the possibility of having a relationship with God Himself. It is the "God hunger" that makes us want to hear God's Holy Spirit as he encourages us to follow God.

Humans are given many options. We have the ability to be proud of our accomplishments. Pride in who we are and what we do is a very good thing. One problem that humans develop is bad pride. The fact that we can excel at some things, that we can make our own decisions, sometimes leads us to think more of ourselves than we should. This is bad pride. Some people even decide that they can do without God. The Bible tells us that such pride will hurt us, and that God will hold us responsible for having that kind of pride.

Speaking of pride, Jesus told some people one day that we should all be as open and humble as children. Children are a good example for adults; they realize that they are dependent on parents, friends, church, school and other things. Children are most like God, because they haven't yet been victims of bad pride.

Another characteristic of human nature is our willingness to sin. Since the first humans in the Garden of Eden sinned, all of us are tempted and we sin. Sin is in our nature. When we sin, we disappoint God. But, God made a way for us to have forgiveness of our sins. Since sin must be paid for, Jesus came to earth as God's representative to pay the penalty for our sin. We must believe that Jesus can do that, and ask God to forgive our sins in Jesus name. He will do that.

Life Application:

Humans have been created in God's image, in His likeness. Since we are like God, we make our own decisions. God doesn't tell us what to do. Because we are human, there are things we do just because we are human; it's human nature. And because we are human, we have inherited something - a sin nature. It comes from Adam and Eve, the first people to sin. The Bible says that, "there is nothing good in my sinful nature." (Romans 7:18) We do many things just because we want to. The Bible is full of stories like this, where the people walked with God and then became proud. Their pride caused them to turn from God. Their disobedience brought punishment from God which led them to cry out to God for mercy. But we read in Proverbs, "There is a way that may seem right to a man. But in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12) God is merciful; He offers forgiveness, but He also expects obedience. God is also trustworthy. You can place your trust in Him. Are you worried about life? Are you worried about death? Turn to God. Place your trust in Him. Die to what used to control you and let the blood of His son, Jesus, set you free.

When we let Jesus set us free, we can have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16) When we put our trust in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. Even so, we still make our own decisions; we have a free will. It is possible to receive guidance from the Holy Spirit and not follow it. The Bible is clear, if we live by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and His power, we will not do what our sinful nature wants to do. (Galatians 5:16) Will you commit to let the Holy Spirit guide your life?



Planning for Lesson 25
 Humanity:
 Relationships



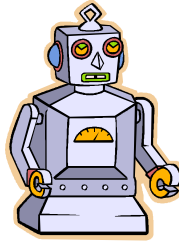
- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Bring clay pots. On the first clay pot, write, “Behold,” on the second, “I,” on the third, “belong” and on the fourth write, “to God,” continuing until the entire verse has been printed on individual pots. Practice ordering the flower pots.
- ◆ Sing “Fruit of the Spirit,” “How Majestic is Your Name,” “Holy, Holy, Holy,” “How Firm A Foundation,” “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”
- ◆ Make a list of ways that we as humans reflect who God is.
- ◆ Encourage your students to think of ways that “God hunger” has manifested itself in their lives. Give your students the opportunity to put into words what they have experienced.
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read Galatians 5:13-26. Note the results of the sinful nature (v 19-21) and the fruit of the Spirit (v 22-25). Discuss the implications of living by the Spirit or living for our own sinful nature.
- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Discuss who we are without Christ and what we deserve. Then, talk about what God has offered and why? What is now available to us?



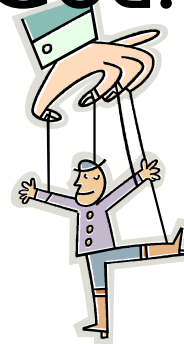
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I too have been
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Job 33:6**

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We are not



or



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Humans
were made in the image of God.
That means that
in our doing and being,
we reflect who _____ is.

Unscramble the words and write the underlined letter on the space above. (regat)

(goviln)

(nikd)

Word Search



H	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	E	R
O	U	F	R	E	W	D	A	T	R	G	E	I
L	M	I	S	I	N	A	T	H	O	L	Y	S
L	B	M	U	H	I	M	A	D	A	D	A	G
L	L	I	W	F	R	E	S	T	A	G	M	I
I	E	T	U	R	E	I	I	L	L	O	H	U
W	I	I	A	D	M	O	B	L	E	D	O	G
E	R	U	T	A	N	N	A	M	U	H	O	L
E	L	I	G	S	P	I	T	R	I	U	H	B
R	G	E	H	O	I	T	I	O	N	N	R	E
F	L	I	A	T	D	N	A	D	A	G	E	I
S	P	R	E	L	A	H	N	I	S	E	G	A
S	I	N	N	A	T	U	R	E	E	R	E	L

human nature

God's image

humble

Holy Spirit

free will

God hunger

relationships

Adam

sin nature

Word Search



H	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	E	R
O	U	F	R	E	W	D	A	T	R	G	E	I
L	M	I	S	I	N	A	T	H	O	L	Y	S
L	B	M	U	H	I	M	A	D	A	D	A	G
L	L	I	W	F	R	E	S	T	A	G	M	I
I	E	T	U	R	E	I	I	L	L	O	H	U
W	I	I	A	D	M	O	B	L	E	D	O	G
E	R	U	T	A	N	N	A	M	U	H	O	L
E	L	I	G	S	P	I	T	R	I	U	H	B
R	G	E	H	O	I	T	I	O	N	N	R	E
F	L	I	A	T	D	N	A	D	A	G	E	I
S	P	R	E	L	A	H	N	I	S	E	G	A
S	I	N	N	A	T	U	R	E	E	R	E	L

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