

Aim of lesson

To help the class appreciate their part in the whole creation of God.

Bible background

Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2; Psalm 8; Psalm 139; Hebrews 2.

Outline of lesson

Did God know?

Ask the class if they think that when God created man he knew what they would be like? Did God know when he created the parents of the whole human race what he was creating for the future? Can God hold such detail in his mind that he can know everyone at once? Obviously yes. God knows the future and his understanding is infinite. Ask the class to keep in mind while looking at the creation of man that they are also looking at God's creation of them.

A living soul

Turn with the class to Genesis 2 and read together verses 7-10,15-24. Ask the class to answer the first three questions in the workbook. Use their answers to discuss the nature of man; to show that a 'living soul' is only the dust of the ground plus the breath of life from God – the same breath of life that the animals have (Genesis 7:15).

Let them have dominion

Use the questions in the box to draw out from the class a brief discussion on the responsibility man has for creation, the abuses of pollution and greed, the devastation of forests, etc. The last part of Revelation 11:18 is a fitting conclusion to this discussion.

Continue with the next three questions in the workbook, encouraging the class to see themselves in God's mind when he created man in his own image. Discuss the ways in which human beings are different from the animals and like God. Expand this theme in the first box by looking together at Psalm 8 to see

- how David recognised the smallness of man in the vastness of creation,
- what an exalted position God has given man in making him a little lower than the angels and
- his position in being given dominion over the rest of creation.

But we see Jesus

Use the next question in the workbook to lead into the thoughts expressed in Hebrews 2:5-10. Show how the writer says that Psalm 8 is not complete until we look at Jesus – crowned with honour and Lord over all.

In the image of God

The last part of the lesson summarises the completion of God's purpose in creating man in his own likeness.

Digging deeper

A lesson about marriage

This section introduces the principle of the sanctity of marriage using Genesis 2.

Relevance to our lives

You may like each of the class to choose one or two of the verses from Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24 and put them into their own words. This should bring home God's intimate knowledge of them, his foreknowledge of them (perhaps referring to creation in verse 15) and the need to draw nearer to God in their characters (verse 24). This could form a prayer which could then be used by the Superintendent to close school or it could be prepared during the week and written out as a psalm to put up on the wall.

Prayer

Dear Lord of all creation, thank you for making me. Thank you for creating in me something of yourself. Please grant that I may one day be a perfect reflection of you like your Son, the Lord Jesus.

Other suggestions for activities

- The class could make a large poster about man made in the image of God, using cuttings from magazines to illustrate the faculties of man which make him different from the animals. The last paragraph of the notes under 'Day 6' in the lesson on creation would be useful for this.
- The class may like to develop the practical caring of people that they know need help as an expression of their understanding that each person they meet is in some way made in the image of God.