

GOD CREATED

CONCEPT

God created man in His own image

GOAL

Christian students will learn that we can't be used for the purpose we were made without God's Spirit in us.

Non-Christian students will learn that humans were designed in God's image.

PASSAGE: GENESIS 1:26-31

Key Verse: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our Image, according to Our likeness.'" Genesis 1:26a

PLANNING AHEAD*

Lesson Supplies

Lesson:

- Hard-boiled egg, 1/CT class
- Plastic knife
- 1 glove

Learning Activity #1:

- Balloons, 4/CT class

Optional Activity:

- Various colors of construction paper
- OT Books of the Bible CD
- CD player

Craft Supplies

Activity Stations:

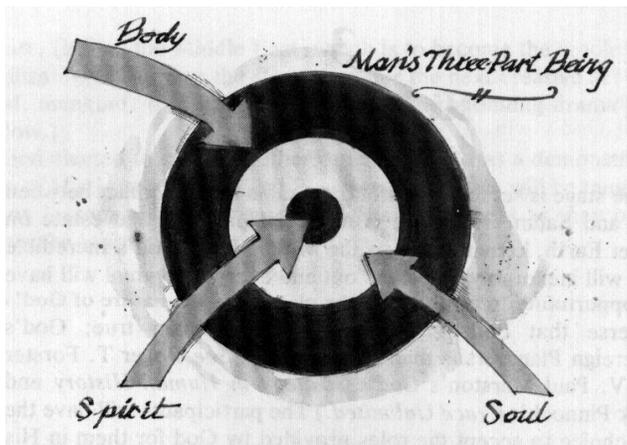
- 8½" x 14" plain white paper, 10 sheets/class
- Markers (black and colored)
- Strong flashlight, 1/class
- Colored pencils
- Black construction paper, 1/student
- White chalk, 1 box
- White construction paper, 1/student

* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS

In the first chapter of the Bible (see Genesis 1:27), God tells us that He created man in His own image. This means that people are like God in His faculties, having a will, emotions, a mind, and eternity of existence. God called the man He created *Adam*.

Man Has a Three-Part Nature. God created man with a three-part nature. The three parts of every person are: body, soul, and spirit. (See 1 Thess. 5:23). These components are illustrated below.



Body. The outer circle stands for the outward man or the material body. The body is the instrument used for the expression of the soul to relate to the world around him, using the five senses of sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch. The Bible states that the body is composed of the basic elements ("dust from the ground") of the earth (Genesis 2:7)

Soul. The second part of a person is soul. It is the part of us that is our personality. Soul includes mind, will emotions, moral consciousness, and eternity of existence. The mind is that part of our personality that has the capacity to understand God's character, to interact, to have rational thought, and to have memory. The will refers to the ability God gave us to choose and with it there is the enormous risk of choosing against God. There is also the privilege

of choosing for Him. Emotions encompass a person's ability to respond emotionally and personally to God and to his fellow men. Moral consciousness and awareness of eternity of existence set man apart from the animal kingdom and it is with these faculties that man realizes God exists and that he himself will exist beyond death.

Spirit. Central to the basic nature of every person is the most incredible dimension of all, the spirit. With the creation of man's spirit, God "breathed into him the breath of life" (see Genesis 2:7) In giving man a spirit, God gave him the capability of receiving the very life of God which is Eternal Life.

Free Will, God's Will, and Self Will

God desires to have a love relationship with us, His created beings. Only a free being with an independent will can love because love requires freedom of response in order to be meaningful. In other words, in order to love, a person must have the choice not to love. Free will, however, introduces the genuine possibility of the wrong decision—the decision to reject or not respond to God's will. When the created person sets his own will against God's will, it is sin or self-will which results in chaos, anarchy, and eternal death.

Purpose of Man's Creation. To understand the purpose of man, it is essential to realize there are four levels of life in the universe. These levels are: divine Life (the highest), human life, and finally, animal and vegetable life (see Psalms 8:4-6).

Man is created like a glove, to contain the very highest level of divine Life, which is Eternal Life. To carry the analogy further, an empty glove is flat. Although the glove is shaped like a hand, it cannot function in the capacity for which it was intended until a hand is placed in it. So it is with man until he contains God's Eternal Life.

It is part of God's amazing strategy to create man and commission him to subdue and to rule over all the earth. The only way man could execute this responsibility, and thus fulfill his purpose, is to contain God's divine Life. Without God's divine Life man is ruled by angelic life, namely, Satan and his world system.

In addition to this purpose for man, God desires to have a vast family of people who will function as His vice-regents, expressing His very Life. It is incredible that the God of the universe has invited us to be His "revealers" of the "manifesters" of His Kingdom on Planet Earth.¹

¹ Martha McCallum and Jane Hamblin, *God's Incredible Plan*, Media Concepts, Xenos Christian Fellowship, pp. 23-25.

LESSON PLAN

<p>SET UP/ INCORPORATION 15-20 MIN</p>	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cooperative Animal Creation Instructions: Divide and fold an 8½" x 14" sheet of paper into thirds. The first section will be the head, the second section will be the front legs and abdomen, and the third section will be the rear legs and tail. Fold the paper so that only the first section is available to draw on. Using markers or colored pencils have students draw the head portion of an animal, imaginary or real. When done turn the paper so only the middle section is visible (extend lines from the first section so the neck is visible for the second section). Then have students exchange papers. The new artist will draw the middle section of the real or imaginary animal, extending the body lines into the third section for the final artist's reference. Once the middle section is complete, turn the paper again so only the last portion is visible and exchange papers. When all drawing is done, open the pages to see what type of creature was created by the three artists. Discussion: God made us in His image, to be like Him. We can't create real animals like He did, but we are creative because we are made in His image. We can use our imagination to create pretend animals. We can create all kinds of beautiful and wonderful things because God made us in His image. ● Craft – Silhouettes Instructions: Hang the black paper on the white board. Use the flashlight to cast the shadow. Have the student stand or sit sideways so the silhouette of his or her head is on the paper. Trace each student's silhouette onto the black paper with chalk. Have the student cut around the outline and glue the silhouette to a piece of white paper. Write the key verse on the top or bottom of the white paper. The silhouettes are made in the image of the student – a representation of the real thing. Discussion: God made each person in His image. This picture is an image of you. In what ways are you like all the students in this class? (Have head, eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.) In what ways are you different? (Have different color of hair, eyes, skin; size & shape of head eyes, mouth nose; height; personality.) Are any two people exactly alike? (No.) God created each one of us to be one of a kind. He created each of us with special work to do and made each of us just the way He wanted us. ● Missions Prayer Instructions: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child.
<p>INTRODUCTION/ INSTRUCTION -- LG GROUP 2 MIN</p>	<p>Last week we learned that God made the angels. God created the sun and moon, the land and sea and all living things. Then God made a man. What did He name that man? The Bible tells us that God created man in His own image. Our key verse is, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our Image, according to Our likeness'" (Genesis 1:26a). When the Bible says that we were made in God's image it means that we are like God because we have a mind, a will, emotions, and we will live forever like God.</p>
<p>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</p>	<p>God created man with three parts, body, soul and spirit. I'll illustrate with this egg.</p>
<p>LESSON PART 1 LG GROUP 10 MIN</p>	<p>Object Lesson Instructions: Use the egg as specified. For another visual, draw on the whiteboard the illustration in the teacher's background as you teach.</p> <p>Body (Hold up egg.) The body or shell is what others see – the physical part of us, our heads, hands, feet, arms, legs. Our body is used to relate to the world around us, using our five senses of sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch.</p>

	<p>Soul</p> <p>(Peel the shell to reveal the white of the egg.) The second part of a person is the soul. Your body is the house of your soul. Your soul includes your personality, your mind, will, emotions, and sense of right and wrong.</p> <p>Your mind thinks, remembers and understands. Your mind can know and understand who God is and what He is like.</p> <p>Who knows what the will is? (It is the ability to choose.) Because we have a will we have the ability to choose for or against God, to eat or not to eat the chocolate cake, to love or not to love our friends, and to choose evil or good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some emotions? (Some are happiness, sadness, anger, frustration, joy, etc.) Emotions allow us to relate personally with God and with other people. • What does it mean to be moral? (To have values, character, to think like God.) The Bible teaches us godly values and character traits. When we are moral we choose what is right according to God's standard. We are different from animals because we know the difference between right and wrong and we can make choices to do good or evil. <p>Spirit</p> <p>(Cut the egg in half to reveal the yolk.) The third part of our being is the spirit. Genesis 2:7 says God breathed into man the breath of life. In giving man a spirit, God gave him the ability to receive God's eternal life. God created our soul and spirit to live forever. Our bodies will die, but our soul and spirit will live forever.</p> <p>(Hold up a glove.) What is the purpose of this glove? (It is placed on a hand to protect it from cold, etc.) If a hand is not put in a glove, what good is it? (Could be used as coaster, frisbee; answers will vary.) A glove was designed to contain a hand. Man was designed to contain God's eternal life. Without a hand the glove is flat and lifeless and cannot be used as it was designed. Without God inside, man is flat and his spirit is lifeless and he cannot function the way he was made.</p>
<p>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</p>	<p>Let's play a game to help us understand what it means that we function better with God's Spirit in us.</p>
<p>LEARNING ACTIVITY #1 – LG GROUP 10 MIN</p>	<p>GAME -- BALLOON RELAY</p> <p>Goal: Students will recognize that the balloon is made to contain air in the same way we are made to contain God's Spirit.</p> <p>Instructions: Divide the class into teams of students. Have the members of each team line up across from each other about four feet apart. Give each team a deflated balloon. At the signal they are to toss the balloon up in the air and bat it back and forth from one end of the line to the other without letting it touch the floor. If it touches the floor they have to start over. The first team to get the balloon from beginning to end wins. It is highly unlikely that any team will be successful so set a time limit and call an end to the game. For the next round, at the signal have the first student blow up and tie the balloon then toss it up in the air and bat it back and forth from one end of the line to the other without letting it touch the floor.</p> <p>Debrief</p> <p>Why was the second time easier? (Air was in the balloon.) The balloon was created to have air in it as we were created to have God's Spirit in us. The balloon can't be used for the purpose it was made without blowing air in it. In the same way, we can't be used for the purpose we were made without God's Spirit in us. Who can tell me what our purpose is? (It is to have a relationship with God and allow Him to change us and use us to lead others to a relationship with God.)</p>

TRANSITION – 2 MIN	The Bible tells us that God created human beings in His own image to contain His Spirit. Our key verse is, " Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our Image, according to Our likeness'" (Genesis 1:26a). Everyone grab a Bible.
LESSON PART 2 LG GROUP 5 MIN	Open your Bibles to the first book, Genesis . Follow along while I read 1:26-31 . Man is a unique creature. Only people are created in God's image. What is an image? Some of you made silhouettes of yourselves when you came in. Those silhouettes are an image of you. An image is a picture, idea or likeness of something. Let's repeat our key verse again, " Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our Image, according to Our likeness'" (Genesis 1:26a). Only people are made in the image and likeness of God. God makes every person with a soul and a spirit that will live forever. Man was created in the image of God, to be in relationship with Him, to be filled with His Spirit. This relationship was broken by sin. When Adam and Eve decided to do things their way and disobey God's way, all of creation fell. As a result, we are separated from God. Without God we can't function the way we were created. However, God provided a way for His Spirit to fill us as He originally intended. He sent His Son to earth to die on the cross to pay the penalty we owe for our sin. When we ask for the forgiveness that was paid for by Jesus' death, His Spirit comes to live in us and we begin a relationship with Him that will last forever.
TRANSITION – 2 MIN	Let's get into our small groups to discuss this.
LEARNING ACTIVITY #2 – SM GROUPS 10 MIN Rationale: to apply scripture to real life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So does this make a difference for Christians? Does the fact that you are created in God's image influence your life? (Allow students to respond.) • Have you ever thought how awesome it is to be able to relate to the God who created the universe and everything in it? • Do you know that because we are made in His image we are able to be creative and to make decisions? And best of all He gave us the ability to love Him and other people. That is just a tiny picture of what it will be like for eternity. The more I think about all these things, I am more and more grateful that He wants to have a relationship with me. Is it exciting to you that He wants to use us in His incredible plan? • Do you ever think about heaven and what it will be like living with Him for eternity? I want Him to change me and use me to tell others that the God of the universe loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. <p>Let's pray together and thank God that even though we have rebelled against Him, He wants to have a relationship with us. If you don't have a relationship with God, you can at any time, when you are ready, by asking Him to forgive your sins through Jesus' death. If you do have a relationship with Him, thank Him for His unbelievable love. Let's ask Him to help us grow in our relationship with Him and to respond to His love by telling others about Him.</p>
OPTIONAL ACTIVITY	<p>Craft – Use construction paper to make frames for silhouettes.</p> <p>Music – Sing the OT Books of the Bible song and see how far the students can go.</p>