

# GOD CREATED HUMANITY

CORE PASSAGE: GENESIS 2:7,15-25



## CONTEXT

In the beginning, in Genesis 1, God created the heavens and the earth. In six days, God created the domains of sky, sea, and land and filled them with lights and living creatures. But for all the wonder of the created world around us and the universe beyond us, the Lord made human beings as the pinnacle of His creation. We were created, both male and female, uniquely in the image of God. The world was created for humanity and humanity for the world, a realm to steward together in God's name. And God declared it all to be "very good" in His sight. In Genesis 2, the Scripture zooms in on the creation of the man and woman God made in His image.

## KEY CONCEPT

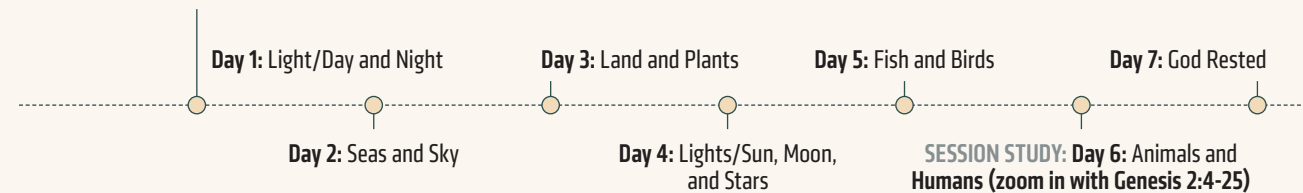
**God created humanity for relationships.**

As you examine Genesis 2:7,15-25:

- Identify how we ought to relate to God and others because of how God created humanity.
- Contemplate the changes that ought to occur in your life if you believe in the Bible's account of the creation of humanity.

## TIMELINE

The Eternal God Creates (Genesis 1:1-2:3)



## Daily Readings

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 1:</b> Genesis 1:1-13   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 4:</b> Genesis 2:4-17  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 2:</b> Genesis 1:14-2:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 5:</b> Genesis 2:18-25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 3:</b> Psalm 8          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 6:</b> Psalm 148       |



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

GENESIS 2:7,15-17

### GOD CREATED HUMANITY AS SPECIAL AND WITH PURPOSE.

*Circle the actions (verbs) performed by God in this passage.*

**7** Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. . . . **15** The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."

#### CHRIST CONNECTION

First Corinthians 15:45-49 quotes Genesis 2:7 and makes an explicit comparison between "the first man Adam" and "the last Adam," or Jesus. The former is a man of dust, and we all take after his image, being descendants of Adam by birth. The latter is a man of heaven, and we will bear His perfect image through faith in Jesus crucified for our sins and raised again.

**Key Concept:** God created humanity for relationships.

God created humanity in His image (Genesis 1:27), an honor bestowed upon nothing else. So we as people are unique and special amongst God's creation. For this we should be grateful. God created us and blessed us—we exist and are alive because God has breathed in us the breath of life (1:27-28; 2:7). And so, as God declared, it is good to be alive (1:31).

**What are some ways you can use your breath to honor the God who created you in His image?**

Before we let our uniquely created status go to our heads, let us consider our bodies. We aren't made of gold, silver, or precious stones. Rather, the Lord formed humanity from the dust of the ground (2:7). From this humble beginning, a body fashioned out of the dirt, then infused with the breath of God, humanity was elevated by God, first to life and then to a responsibility.

The Lord planted a garden in a place that we know as Eden (2:8), and He took the man He had formed and placed him in that garden for two reasons. One, to provide food for the man (2:16). The Lord created this man, and all humanity, with the need for food, and the Lord provided abundantly for that need in Eden. And two, God placed

the man in the garden to work it and watch over it (2:15). This was to be the perfect realm for humanity's expanding rule as those made in God's image (1:28).

Yet the man was to rule as a steward under the ultimate authority of his Creator and Sustainer. To ground this reality for the man, God raised up and identified one tree in Eden among all the other trees and commanded the man not to eat of that one (2:17). The consequence of disobedience would be death.

**How can our work today reflect our status as stewards under God's ultimate authority?**



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

GENESIS 2:18-25

### GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS TO BE IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS.

*Identify the three main scenes in this passage and briefly summarize each.*

**18** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." **19** The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. **21** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. **22** Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man. **24** This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. **25** Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

The exclusive relationship between husband and wife pictures the plan of God for Christ and the church to be united as one through the perfect sacrificial death of Jesus to cleanse us of our sins and make us holy (Ephesians 5:22-33).

**Key Concept:** God created humanity for relationships.

The constant refrain of Genesis 1 is "And God saw that it was good," describing various stages of His creative work. God even concluded day six with the declaration that it was all "very good indeed" (1:31). But before the "very good" was accomplished, a "not good" was first identified (2:18). The man God created in His image was alone. Certainly, the Lord was with him, but God knew the man needed "a helper corresponding to him," someone like him who could be a complement to him, unlike a dog, cat, bird, or fish (2:19-20).

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**MAN:** Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation.

So God took a rib from the man and fashioned it into a woman, a companion who was like the man yet distinct and different, and she became his wife (2:21-24). For the work of tending the garden and multiplying to fill the earth, this woman would be the man's "helper" (2:18). We must not classify this role as slavish or subservient but as a role of honor and dignity, one that reflects God's image, for God Himself is called a "helper" in Exodus 18:4.

**What are some ways God's people should honor God for the good gift of gender as male and female?**

The first man and woman God created set the pattern for a husband and wife to join together and become "one flesh" in a relationship of love, sacrifice, submission, and respect (Ephesians 5:22-33). The fruit of marriage was expected to be a family with children and then a community obeying the Word of the Lord. As a result of Adam's sin (Genesis 3), we don't always see these intended outcomes, yet the Lord remains faithful, even through childlessness, unintentional singleness, and loneliness. Through the love and sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has raised up a community in the church to love and help one another. And in the church, we are united with one another and supremely with Christ.

**How can your group help others who feel lonely and isolated?**

## CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIPS

*Based on Genesis 2:7,15-25, how should we relate to God?  
How should we relate to others?*

GOD

OTHERS

What is one insight you gained from this activity that you need to think more about?



### HEAD

What are some ways your life should change if you believe in the Bible's account of the creation of humanity?

**PRAYING SCRIPTURE**

Read Psalm 148, noticing how every aspect of God's creation should praise their Creator. Pray through Psalm 148, focusing on praising God for His work of creation.

PRAYER REQUESTS  
AND PRAISES



### HEART

What in your life leads you to isolation? How can the community of Jesus in the church help you to resist temptation? To enjoy fellowship?



### HANDS

How will you reflect God's image in your work and relationships with others this week?

