

SESSION 2

GOD CREATED THE FIRST MAN AND WOMAN

Now we have come to a very important part of the story of when God created the earth. He had made a beautiful home for people, but there were no people yet. The plants, animals, birds and fish were there. God had given life to each one of them. But now God was going to do something different. He was going to create a different kind of living thing – people.



GENESIS 1:26

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

God said “*Let us make human beings...*” Why did he say *let us* and not *let me*? Remember that God is a three-in-one God. He is one God, but he is the Father, the Son and the Spirit. The Father, the Son and the Spirit work together and plan things together. God tells us here in his story how the three planned together to make human beings. Human beings means men and women - people.

God said he would make people “*...in our image, to be like us.*” These people would be different from the rest of the living things that God had made. They would be like God. That is what it means when it says *in our image*. They would be like God because they would be able to think about God and they would be able to know God.

God wanted to make people who could think about him. They would be able to speak to him. He would be able to speak to them and they could listen to him when he spoke. They would be able to thank him for the beautiful things he had made. They would be able to love him and obey¹⁶ him. They would know that God loved them.

16. **obey** - to follow what someone says

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God says that these people would reign over the other living things that he had made. Reign means to rule over something. He would give these people important work to do for him. God wanted them to take care of the earth and to take care of the other living things that he had made.

God said he would make people and so that is what he did.



GENESIS 1:27-31

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰ And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened.

³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

God created one man and one woman. Part of the work God wanted them to do was to have children. God wanted the earth to have many more people. So he made the man and woman so that they could have children.

God saw that all he had made was very good. The man and woman that God had made were perfect. He had planned to make them and he made them just like he wanted them to be.

God’s story tells a bit more about when God made the first man and woman. We will look at what it says in Genesis Chapter 2. It tells more about the time at the beginning when God made everything.



GENESIS 2:1-3

¹ So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ² On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

God had finished his work of creation. He had finished everything he wanted to do. God always finishes what he plans to do. People start a lot of things but we do not finish all of the things we start. We say that we are going to do things, but we don’t always do them. God isn’t like that. He doesn’t give up and he doesn’t go off and do something else. He always finishes the things that he starts. And God always does things right. He plans to do things and he does them just like he planned to do them.

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After he finished his work, God rested. God didn't need to rest because he was tired. God does not get tired. He rested because his work was finished. He made the universe and all living things and then he was finished. And so, because his work was finished, God stopped and rested.



GENESIS 2:4-7

⁴ This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. ⁶ Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land. ⁷ Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

Before this part of the story, the name used for God was 'God.' Now, in this part of God's story, he starts to use the name 'Lord.' God started to use this name because there were now people on the earth. There were people and so God could be their Lord. These people would be able to know him and love him. He would be their Lord. He would be the one to take care of them and they would know he would care for them. God made people to know him, to love him and to listen to him. So he started to use the name Lord after people were on the earth. He would be close to them like a father is close to his children.

Genesis 2:7 tells us about how God made the first man. It says that God made him from the earth - *from the dust of the ground*. But the man that God made from the dust of the ground was just an empty body. He had no life yet. He could not move or breathe or work. Then it says that God *breathed the breath of life* into the man. When God put life into him, the man became a living person. He was able to breathe, to work, to speak, to think and to know God. God is the only one who can give life or who can make life begin.

This first man that God made is the ancestor¹⁷ of every person that has ever lived. Later, God's story calls this first man Adam. Adam is a word from the Hebrew¹⁸ language that means 'man.'



GENESIS 2:8

⁸ Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made.

The Lord God now tells us about how he planted a special garden. It was in a place called Eden so we call it 'the garden of Eden.' Then, he put the man he had made into that garden. That garden was an amazing place. It was full of beautiful growing things. There were many plants and trees with flowers and fruit. He put them there for the man to enjoy¹⁹ seeing and for the man to enjoy eating. God made the garden the best place for the man to be. God knew what was best for the man

17. **ancestor** - person in our family who has lived before us

18. **Hebrew** - people that are descended from Jacob, the grandson of Abraham (we will find out more about them later in the story)

19. **enjoy** - to like doing something or seeing something

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because he is the Lord and he made the man. God made Adam and so he knew what was best for him. God put Adam in the garden and he gave him the work of looking after the living things there. Everything was just like God had planned it to be.



GENESIS 2:9

⁹ The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In the garden, there were thousands of different amazing trees, plants and flowers. But there were two special trees that God had put in the garden. In his story, God names these two trees. One tree that was in the middle of the garden was *the tree of life*. The other tree was *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*.



GENESIS 2:15-17

¹⁵ The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.
¹⁶ But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—¹⁷ except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

God said that the man was allowed²⁰ to eat the fruit from every tree in the garden. But God said that the man could not eat the fruit from one of the trees. The man was free to eat the fruit from the tree of life and from all the other trees in the garden. But he could not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said very clearly that if the man ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would die.

The man, Adam, had a choice²¹ to make. He could choose to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Or, he could choose not to eat it. Adam was free to decide²² what he would do. God gave Adam the freedom to do what he wanted to do. Adam could choose to do what God said or he could choose not to listen²³ to God.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil and its fruit were not evil or bad. God doesn't make anything bad. So why did God tell the man not to eat the fruit from that tree? God just wanted the man to listen to him. God wanted the man to come to him with any questions he had. God knew what would be best for Adam. He put him in a beautiful place with important work to do. And God was right there with Adam. Adam could go to God at any time to ask him a question. Adam didn't need to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He didn't need to know the difference between good and evil himself. Adam could go to God at any time and he could ask God any question he had. The Lord wanted this man to come to him to ask him anything he wanted to ask.

20. **allowed** - something that is OK to do and is not wrong to do

21. **choice** - to have to do one thing or another thing, to decide between two things

22. **decide** - to think about what you are going to do

23. **listen** - to choose to agree with someone and follow what they say

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Now God said that the man should not be alone.



GENESIS 2:18

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

God said the man needed a helper. He said, “*I will make a helper who is just right for him.*” God knew Adam in every way. He knew all the things that Adam needed. God had planned to make him and he made him after creating a world for him to live in. God cared about Adam and he wanted Adam to have everything he needed. God didn’t have to ask Adam what he needed because God already knew. God wanted Adam to look after the earth and all the living things. He also wanted the earth to be filled with more people. God knew that Adam would need a female helper to do that work.



GENESIS 2:19,20

¹⁹ So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

God brought all the animals and birds to Adam for him to name. God gave Adam the work of taking care of the earth and all the living things in it. So God brought all the animals and birds to Adam so that Adam could choose names for all of them. Adam gave a name to each one. Adam was beginning to do the work that God had given him to do.

Adam saw all the amazing animals and birds that God had made. But there was no helper that was just right for him. None of the animals could be a helper for him. The animals were not like him. None of them were made to know and love God. None of them were like Adam. Adam needed a helper that was just right for him. God’s story tells us how God made the perfect companion²⁴ and helper for Adam.



GENESIS 2:21-25

²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

²³ “At last!” the man exclaimed.

“This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called ‘woman,’
because she was taken from ‘man.’”

²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

24. **companion** - someone who spends time with you, and helps you

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²⁵ Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Adam was very happy with this woman that God had made. He said, “*at last!*” This was the person he had been waiting for. This was the one who could help him and be with him.

God brought this man and woman together.²⁵ God brought them together to live and work together. This was something God did in the beginning. He made the woman to be the helper and companion of the man. This is what we call marriage. God planned it and made it happen when he made the woman as Adam’s wife.

The man and woman were both naked – they were not wearing any clothes. They were not ashamed²⁶ of being naked. There was nothing bad in the world, and they were both happy together and did not feel any shame.



1. Name some of the things that God did for Adam and his wife.
2. God did many things for Adam and his wife. What does that tell us about how God felt about them?
3. Do you think that God created marriage?
4. Do you think that the way the Bible tells the story of creation is true?
5. Have you heard a different story of how the world began?

25. **together** - to be with, or close, to one another

26. **ashamed** - to feel sad about something you have done; to want to hide because you did something wrong



This lesson has been adapted from the book *His Story: The Rescue, The Bible message from Genesis to Christ in easy English* (ISBN: 978-0-9944270-4-5)

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