

A PERFECT HOME

WE ARE GOD'S VERY SPECIAL CREATION, MADE IN HIS IMAGE.

MEMORY VERSE

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).

Word of the Week—Image:

A likeness, a picture, reflection or a representation of who God is and what He's like. You are made in God's image, to be like Him. What attribute of God would you like to reflect?

This week's lesson is based on Genesis 1:24-31; 2:7-25; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 45-51; and *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 214-217, 222-227.

SUNDAY

God Created Animals

Flowers opened their petals and drank in the sunshine, trees swayed in the breeze, birds sang a chorus of praise, and fish darted through crystal waters and over colorful coral reefs. The world was beautiful! The scene was set for Day 6 of Creation.

The Bible tells us, "Then God said, 'Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals. And let each produce more of its kind.' And it happened" (Genesis 1:24, ICB).

Wow! At God's command horses galloped, dogs barked, and lions roared. Great elephants and tiny field mice nibbled the plants side by side. All of God's animals looked, behaved, and sounded different, but they lived happily together.

Read Genesis 1:25. What did God mean when He said each animal was made according to "its kind"?

God's creatures would have babies just like themselves. He made worms to always be worms; they couldn't turn into fish! He made monkeys to always be monkeys; they couldn't turn into people! Each kind of animal was cleverly designed to stay just the way God made it.

After creating all the animals, "God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:25). We too can say, "It is good."

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Which animal do you like to think about to remind you of God's creative power?*
- *Is there an animal that you'd like to learn more about?*

Remember to look for clues in animals and nature, because they always tell us something about God.

Pray: Thank God for the variety of animals and the role each one plays in our planet.

Do: Use the color wheel spinner you made at Sabbath School to tell your parents/caregivers about what you've learned about Creation.



MONDAY

Animal Joy

God had someone precious on His mind when He made the animals—you! He knew animals would be very important to all people and the planet.

Some animals He created to help us directly. God knew that we would need animals like horses to ride and oxen to pull heavy loads. Others play a role in helping the planet to work perfectly. Beavers dam up rivers, which reduces flooding and helps fish to flourish. Squirrels are natural tree planters, stashing nuts that take root and grow into forests. Monkeys eat fruit and spread the seeds so that new trees grow in forests. Forests create the oxygen we all need to breathe and live.

God's love for us is so great that He also designed animals to bring us joy. Think about mischievous monkeys, playful otters, and parrots that learn to talk.

God made other animals to be our special friends. When we love them, they love us right back, like playful cats or loyal dogs.

There's a story told of Greyfriars Bobby, a little dog who belonged to a man in Scotland named John Gray. They were faithful friends. When Mr. Gray died, Bobby stayed on his grave and wouldn't leave, even though many people wanted to take him home and care for him. He stayed there until he died 14 years later. He was a faithful dog who kept loving his master as long as he lived. Greyfriars Bobby reminds us of how much God loves us with a love that never ends. What does the Bible call God's love that never ends? **Read Jeremiah 31:3.**

People should care for the animals, but we can also learn life lessons by looking at some of God's creatures. The Bible tells us we can learn something big and important from the tiniest ant. What can we learn from an ant? **Read Proverbs 6:6.**

God's love is selfless; it is always giving. He gave us animals to help us and the planet, and to teach us, love us, and bring us joy.

PRAY: Make a prayer circle with your family and have each thank God for an animal you love, explaining why it makes the world a better place.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *What can you learn from your pets and other animals around you?*
- *Why do you think God made them for you?*

Fast Facts:

- A snail can hibernate for three years.
- Hummingbirds can fly backwards.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- An ant can carry a grain of corn many times bigger and heavier than itself.

TUESDAY

God Created Adam

In six days God had spoken a whole new world to life. It was a magnificent gift, wrapped up in God's love. But whom was this gift for? **Read Genesis 1:27.**

God didn't speak this time. He wanted His next creation to be special and different, for He was about to make someone like Himself in many, many ways. God took some dust and began to gently shape it. Love poured through His hands as He molded an arm, a tummy, a mouth, and a heart, until a man lay peacefully still. He was perfect to look at, but not alive. Then God bent over his silent face. How did God bring this first man to life? **Read Genesis 2:7.**

Just imagine what it would have been like for this man, Adam, to stir, open his eyes, and see God's kind, smiling face. Adam was healthy, happy, and handsome, with bright ideas and an incredible brain.

Made in the image of God, Adam was designed to also love and care for others. To celebrate this special role, God gave him the fun job of naming all the animals. "Giraffe" popped into his head for a tall, gangly creature, and "rabbit" for a little furball. Strong, bouncing creatures were called "kangaroos," and cooing white birds became "doves."

Maybe a horse nuzzled his arm and a dog licked his hand, wanting to be best friends. God had made Adam responsible for looking after them and everything else on the earth. What an awesome, kind caretaker God had given them.

Our loving God created us in His image and also made us responsible for looking after His creatures. This is called stewardship—when we take care of what God has given us. When we do this, God knows how much we love Him and appreciate the wonderful things He made.

PRAY: Thank God for creating you. Ask Him to help you do a good job of looking after His creation.

THINK . . . THEN TALK ABOUT IT

- *If you are made in God's image, what kind of caretaker should you be for the planet?*
- *Talk about some practical ways your family can continue Adam's role and take care of God's creation.*

DO: What could you do today to take care of something God made? Go for a walk and find something or someone that needs your loving care. Or consider picking up trash and plastic waste that people have scattered in God's nature.





WEDNESDAY

Created in God's Image

When "God created man in His own image" (Genesis 1:27), one of the special things He gave humans was an amazing mind that worked better than the mind of anything He had created so far. His plan was to place the image of a loving, giving God inside of all people, forever.

God had made many animals intelligent and able to communicate. Dolphins, for example, can work together to hunt and play. Some animals even use shells as tools. But our brains are much larger. We can think things through, and plan, create, imagine, share, and solve problems (such as tricky math puzzles). Our many languages are very different and beautiful. How many ways can you say hello?

Humans can also think about the long-term future (if you'll travel, take up a hobby or sport, do a job, or have a family). No animal can plan for the long-term future like people can.

But what makes us unique is that we are made in God's image. That's why God gave Adam the job of naming all the animals and the even more important job of looking after creation. Humans can also pray to God, as well as worship and serve Him.

What can we say to God, knowing that we have amazing minds that can think and love in special ways? **Read Psalm 139:14.**

God loves us so much that He gave us a mind to think and a heart to love. It's important to remember that God gave us our amazing minds, and we should praise Him for it.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *There's a lot of things that try to mess up the way our minds are designed to think. What are some things that distract your mind from being in God's likeness, in His image?* **Read Philippians 4:8** *to see what God says you should think about.*

Pray: Open your Bible to Psalm 139:14 and pray a prayer of thanks because God made you in His image.

Do: Using the mind God gave you, think about what you could do to help solve a problem for someone. Think of a family member, neighbor, or classmate who finds something difficult.



THURSDAY

God Created Eve

The Bible says that "the man gave names to all the tame animals, to the birds in the sky and to all the wild animals. But Adam did not find a helper that was right for him" (Genesis 2:20, ICB). Adam must have wondered: *Why isn't there someone just like me?*

God had the answer already planned. What was God's surprise, and how did it come to be? **Read Genesis 2:21, 22.**

Once again, God used His own hands to create someone in His image (recite your memory verse).

First, He let Adam fall into a peaceful sleep. Then He carefully opened up Adam's side, took out a rib, and gently molded it into a female. She was like Adam, but different. God had designed them to fit together always.

God took Eve to Adam, woke him up, then stood back to watch. Love must have filled Adam's heart as he looked into her smiling eyes. What a beautiful surprise God had made, just for him. He welcomed her to the world as his very own special friend—someone who could talk with him, laugh with him, and understand his heart.

Adam couldn't talk with the animals, but he could always talk with Eve. Words are one of God's gifts to us because we are made in His image. Talking with people helps us get to know, understand, and love them. Kind words from a friend can drive away loneliness and help us feel close, just as Adam and Eve felt. What does the Bible say about kind words? **Read Proverbs 16:24.** The next time you eat honey or something sweet, think about how kind words can make us happy and healthy.

Pray: Thank God for giving you friends and family to make you happy. Ask Him to help you speak kind words to others who may be lonely.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Who speaks kind words to you? How do they make you feel?*
- *Whom could you share kind words with today, and how (write, speak, video)?*

God made Adam and Eve to be special friends who could talk and be together. They were designed in His image, to each be special as man and woman, but to fit together in love.

For You, Parents: "Through . . . the deepest and tenderest earthly ties human hearts can know, He [God] has sought to reveal Himself to us" (Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ,* p. 10).



☐ FRIDAY

Unity in the Garden Home

Adam and Eve were created for each other as the very first male and female. God wanted them to spend happy days together, just as God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit do. We call this togetherness unity, and it's a very big blessing.

Then God blessed Adam and Eve in another way. Children would come from their special love for each other. Our families all come from this very first family. We're all God's precious children. What words does God use to tell us how special we are? *Read Isaiah 43:4* (first half).

As God's loved and precious children, Adam and Eve wore a covering of God's warm light and glory that fitted them perfectly. Imagine never having to change your clothes and them never getting old and ripped!

Then God gave them a beautiful home too. He knew Adam and Eve so well that He gave them the perfect home that was just right for them. What was this home called? *Read Genesis 2:15.*

It was a wonderful home with a blue sky roof that sparkled with stars at night. Soft, green grass carpeted the floor, and the walls were lush, green plants. Sweet-smelling flowers perfumed the air, and birds tweeted happily. There were no windows to wash or floors to sweep. Instead, Adam and Eve enjoyed the beauty of their garden. They talked with God there, feeling close to Him in their peaceful home.

Even though we don't live in a perfect world as Adam and Eve did, God still wants us to be close friends with Him. We can feel close to God in our homes when we read the Bible, or out in nature among the good things He has made.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *What would you have talked with God about in the Garden of Eden?*
- *How can you talk to God each day and hear Him speaking to you?*

Friday Night

Share and Praise

Praise God for each other—the beautiful people in your family who love you, just as God does. Take turns praising God for something really special about another family member.

Family Journal

- Think about how much love God poured into creating animals and people on Day 6. How does it make you feel?
- What did you learn about being created in God's image?
- What does your heart want to say to God in response?

Parent Faith Talk

If appropriate, you may share how you met your spouse, and the special love God has given you for each other. Alternatively, share how God meets your need for a good friend in your life.

Do

As a family, plan a special time to share the love you have with others. Who would benefit most from some extra love this week? Invite them to share a meal, a walk in the public gardens, a photo night, or . . . ? Be creative!

Pray

Praise and thank God for all He created on the sixth day. You might like to finish by singing a praise song or teaching your child "I Come to the Garden" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 487).

God's Love

Trees and flowers, the heavens and light, stars and the sun—all show us God's love. His laws work inside of them, so they cannot choose to show their love in special ways, as animals and people can. God's love inside the hearts of His sixth-day creatures can shine out in deep and special ways.

Lawrence Anthony, a famous explorer and nature lover, rescued and adopted wild and destructive elephants in Africa to stop them from being shot. He loved them, made friends with them, and cared for them. They loved him back. Two days after he died in 2012, his family was surprised to see two herds of elephants arrive at their house. The elephants had walked for 12 hours to quietly grieve with Lawrence's family, even though they hadn't been to his home for a year and a half, and no one could have told them he had died.

God's love made their hearts start grieving when Lawrence's heart stopped beating. His family and friends had loved him very deeply too, so it was comforting and special for them to all be able to grieve together with the elephants Lawrence had loved so greatly.

We can thank God for giving animals the ability to share and receive His love in special ways.

