



# Creating the World: Day 6

**Lesson Aim: To explore ways we can reflect God's character in the world.**

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The God Who Creates

## THE WORD

**What He Has Done:** God created us in His image.

**Scripture Focus:** Genesis 1:26-31 **Key Verse:** Genesis 1:27

**Christ Connection:** 2 Corinthians 3:18; Matthew 5:16

## THE WAY

**The Big Question: Which characteristics of God can we reflect to the world around us?**

## UNIT 5 FOCUS VERSE

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—  
 have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made,  
 so that people are without excuse." Romans 1:20

<b>Unit 5: The God Who Creates</b>			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
22	Creating the World: Day 1, Genesis 1:1-5	God brought light into darkness.	To see how we can be light in dark places.
23	Creating the World: Days 2-5, Genesis 1:6-25	God brought order out of chaos.	To consider how God might use us to bring order out of chaos.
24	Creating the World: Day 6, Genesis 1:26-31	God created us in His image.	To explore ways we can reflect God's character in the world.
25	Adam and Eve in the Garden, Genesis 2:5-24; 3:20	God made Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden.	To see God created us for specific relationships with Him and others.
26	The Day of Rest, Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-13, 16	God blessed His day of rest and made it holy.	To discover why we remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

**LEADER'S ENCOURAGEMENT** This week, read Psalm 8. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord for making us in Your image. Fill the students with Your Holy Spirit, that they might grasp what it means to reflect Your character to the world. Amen."

**Lesson Aims** are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

**Take Home Elements:** The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

**Leader's Tip:** For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

**Suggestion:** Choose a game that focuses on concepts related to the lesson such as creation, God's character, or working together.

### **ACTIVITY OPTION 1: BIRDIE ON A PERCH**

**Purpose:** To introduce the idea of how we can work together.

**Supplies:** Music

**Directions:**

1. Every student chooses a partner.
2. Divide students into 2 groups with students in the opposite group of their partners.
3. Group 1 holds hands and stands in a circle. Group 2 holds hands and stands in a wider outer circle surrounding Group 1.
4. This game is a variation of Musical Chairs. Start the music and the two circles of students walk, dance, conga, etc., in opposite directions.
5. When the music stops, the partners must find each other quickly. The partner in the inner circle gets down on one knee as "a perch" and their partner from the outer circle must sit on their partner's knee as "the birdie."
6. The pair of partners who are the last to find each other are eliminated. Repeat the game until only one pair remains. They are the winners.

### **ACTIVITY OPTION 2: TOILET PAPER RACE**

**Purpose:** To introduce the idea of how we can work together.

**Supplies:** One roll of toilet paper (or ribbon) per team

**Prepare:** Divide students into 2 or more teams of students.

**Directions:**

1. Teams line up all facing the same way.
2. Give the roll of toilet paper to the first student in each team's line.
3. On the teacher's signal, the first students in their line must unroll the toilet paper and pass it through their legs to the next person, who must pass the paper over their shoulder to the next person.
4. Repeat this pattern until the last student in the line has received the roll.
5. If the paper breaks, that team must start over.
6. The first team to correctly pass the roll to the end of their line is the winner.



## The God who creates **THE WORSHIP**

**Note to Leader:** The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

**Ideas for Optional Visuals:** As the leader reads the Unit 5 Focus Verse or other passage, show a video or photographs featuring individuals showing God's attributes such as love, care, protection, comfort, or provision.

**Today, we worship God for who He is and what He has done by creating us in His own image. When we see the character of God demonstrated by the actions of someone we know, we can see who God is.**

**Later, we will learn God created us in His image to reflect His character to the world. As we worship God now, think about the creative way God uses us to reflect His character to one another and to the world.**

Read the Unit 5 Focus Verse: Romans 1:20.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on God as our Creator or on the qualities of God we can reflect to bring Him glory.



Read Hebrews 2:5-8.



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God for the way He uses us to reflect His character to the world. Students complete the following sentence: **"Lord, thank You for the way You \_\_\_\_\_."**



God created us in His image

## THE WORD Presentation

**Note to Leader:** Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

### Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

- Option 1: Display a photo of someone the students would recognize. Ask students to identify the person in the photo. Explain the difference between the actual person and his or her photo (image/likeness) to illustrate the difference between God and us as His image/likeness. We are not God, but we are made in His likeness.
- Option 2: Show an age-appropriate video clip or photos illustrating an example of someone reflecting the character of God (comforting, serving, providing, caring, rescuing, etc.)



## TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

*Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.*

In this unit, we are looking at God as the One who creates and was intentional in how He created the world and everything in it. Last time, we learned how God brought order out of chaos as He was intentional with what He created on days 2 through 5. We learned how God can use us to bring order to the chaos around us.

Today, we will learn God created us in His image and how we can reflect His character in the world.

The leader or a student reads Genesis 1:26-31 aloud.

- God chose to make us in a specific way for a certain purpose. He chose to make us in His image and for the purpose of ruling over all living things.
- When He was creating the first man and woman, God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness." The use of the word "us" is the first time the Bible presents the mystery of the Trinity. The Trinity is a term used to describe God as three in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God made female and male humans in His own image. Therefore, all humans of both genders are to be treated equally with the same respect and dignity.
- Because we are made in His image, we can reflect God's characteristics or qualities.
- The characteristics or qualities of God are in two categories.
  - The first category contains those qualities that no one but God can possess. Examples include God is present everywhere, all-powerful, timeless, never fails, etc.
  - The second category contains characteristics of God that we can reflect, even though we do not reflect them perfectly. For example, God is loving, faithful, patient, true, gentle, creative, and wise. He is our provider, shepherd, helper, rescuer, redeemer, and our healer.

# THE WORD Presentation *continued*



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## **CHRIST CONNECTION**

### **What is the connection between this story and Christ?**

- Ever since sin entered the world, mankind has failed in reflecting God's character, and in treating one another equally. Jesus came to make it right. He gave His life to conquer sin, and through His Spirit, to transform us more and more into His likeness as He originally made us to be.

The leader or a student reads 2 Corinthians 3:18 aloud.

- As we are being transformed into His likeness, we reflect His character to the world.
- Option: View "Glory to Glory" by William Matthews on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuAjUul-iUM&list=RDPuAjUul-iUM#t=3>

The leader or a student reads Matthew 5:16 aloud.

- When others see God's love, patience, faithfulness, truth, and mercy shining through our actions, it points them to Him and brings glory (credit and praise) to His name.



## **THE BIG QUESTION**

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

**Which characteristics of God can we reflect to the world around us?**



## THE WAY Discussion



**GETTING STARTED** Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness. We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



### READ IT AGAIN

Read Genesis 1:26-31 silently or aloud.

**God is perfect, so no one can be exactly like Him, but everyone is made in His likeness. What are some ways we can be like God, doing things as He would do them?**

**God made us in His image so we would rule over the living things He created. How can we rule over fish, birds, and creatures in a way that pleases God?**



**THE BIG QUESTION** Invite students to share their answers.

**Which characteristics of God can we reflect to the world around us?**



**TAKE ACTION** Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

Supplies: Ball or balloon that can be written on, dark colored marker

Students sit in a circle. First student uses marker to write on the ball one word describing your favorite characteristic of God. The ball and marker are passed around the circle until everyone has written a characteristic on the ball.

Students toss the ball to one another. Each student who catches the ball reads the characteristic nearest to his or her right index finger. He or she gives an example of one way to reflect that characteristic, and then tosses the ball. Continue until all have a turn.

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to reflect His character in the world SO THAT others might \_\_\_\_\_.**



**PRAY** Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



**FINAL FIVE MINUTES** When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #24 and Journal Entry #24. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #24.

# GOD OF WONDERS

## JOURNAL ENTRY #24

### Creating the World: Day 6

#### Genesis 1:26-31

## WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- Now **read Genesis 1:26-31**.
- In Genesis 1:26, God doesn't say "He" created humankind in "His" likeness. What word does He use?
- This is the first time the Bible refers to God in plural form. God is three in one (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- What did God say was the job He gave to the male and female?
- After God blessed them, what did He tell the male and female to do?

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- In the space provided, list the characteristics of God that you admire most.
- Circle any of the above characteristics that you might be able to show with God's help.
- How might doing those things reflect God's character to others?
- Give an example of a time you saw someone do as you believe God would have done.
- How did that point you to God, remind you of God, or cause you to give God the credit for it?
- Why do you think God would want to fill the earth with people who are made in His image and likeness?

## WHAT CAN I DO?

- We can tell people who God is, but it is usually more meaningful to show them by reflecting His character through our actions. What is one way you show the character of God through your own actions?
- When you do a good deed, how can you give God the credit?

Action Card #24/GOW

# CREATING THE WORLD: DAY 6

GENESIS 1:26-31

GOD MADE US IN *HIS IMAGE*.

WE ARE CALLED TO *REFLECT*  
GOD'S CHARACTER IN  
THE WORLD AROUND US.

Action Card #24/GOW

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Family Discussion #24/GOW

## CREATING THE WORLD: DAY 6

READ GENESIS 1:26-31.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT GOD?  
LISTEN AS EACH FAMILY MEMBER SHARES.

TAKE TURNS NAMING A TIME WHEN EACH PERSON  
HAS *REFLECTED GOD'S CHARACTER* THROUGH HIS  
OR HER KINDNESS, WISDOM, OR GENEROSITY.

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