

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS WEEK 10

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 10: *How did God create man?*

ANSWER: God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 8A

Scripture: Read Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33

Key Thought: *God created man male and female.*

Questions:

- ☪ Who was the first man God created? Who was the first woman?
- ☪ Could God have created Adam and Eve at the same time?
- ☪ Why does the Bible say God created the woman?
- ☪ How did God create Eve? Why was she taken "out of the man"?
- ☪ In what ways are men and women equal? How are they different?
- ☪ What responsibilities do each have to God and one another?

Prayer

Notes: The lessons for this week focus on the creation of man. We will look at each statement of the answer to Question 10, looking at the implications of each one. Today's focus is on the fact that God created mankind male and female. There are many who seek to erase all distinctions between the sexes, calling for absolute equality between men and women in every area of life. It is important for us to understand what the Bible teaches about the role of men and women in God's creation. Since He is the Creator, He is the one who determines how His creatures are to interact with Himself and one another. As we read the account of the creation of man, it becomes immediately apparent that God made males and females to be different from one another in significant ways, but also to complement one another. The man was created first, out of the dust of the ground, and later the woman was created from the rib of the man. The Apostle Paul says that this was purposefully done by God in order to establish an order between men and women. The man is to be the head of his family, and the woman is commanded by God to submit to her husband's authority. The woman was created to be a helper to the man, but she was also created out of his own substance, that he might love and cherish her as he does his own body. God's order in creation is not designed to make women the slaves of men, or to indicate that they are less important in any way. But there is a difference

in authority and function that has been established by God. The proper exercise of headship by men involves the imitation of Christ Himself, who possesses all authority, but exercises that authority in the loving service of His Bride, the Church. The proper submission of a wife to her husband is an imitation of the Church's glad and loving submission to the will of Christ, her Husband. When God's order is rightly understood and followed, there is harmony in a Christian household and they are better able to compliment one another in their respective duties. Help you children to see God's wise design for men and women, and pray together for grace to obey His commands as they relate to the interactions of men and women under God.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 8A

Scripture: Read Genesis 1:26-28; 9:6-7

Key Thought: *God created man in His own image.*

Questions:

- ☪ Of all of His creatures, whom did God create "in His own image"?
- ☪ What does it mean to be made "in the image of God"?
- ☪ Why was there discussion among the Godhead before the creation of man?
- ☪ What is it about man that sets him apart from all other creatures?

Prayer

Notes: Not only did God create man male and female, but He created them "in His own image." Notice that both male and female are created in God's image. The Apostle Paul points out that man "is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man" (1 Cor. 11:7) He does not say that woman is not the image of God, but that she is the glory of man. While affirming the God-ordained distinctions between male and female, we must be careful to affirm that both are created in God's image. Discuss with your children what it means to be "in the image of God." To be in His image is to be a reflection of His Being. The coins of kings are stamped with their own image to reflect his glory and authority. Likewise, man is stamped with the image of God in order to reflect His excellent nature. It has been noted that only before the creation of man was there discussion among the Trinity: "Let us make man in our own image..." This reflects the deliberate work of God in fashioning mankind as the crown of His creation. God's image within him sets mankind apart from every other creature. Only man has a reasonable soul and the ability to interact with God. Praise God together for the honor of being made "in His image" and pray for strength and grace to reflect His glory and holiness.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 8A

Scripture: Read Colossians 3:9-15; Ephesians 4:21-32

Key Thought: *God created man to reflect His knowledge, righteousness and holiness.*

Questions:

- ☪ What characteristics of your parents do people see in you?
- ☪ What qualities of God was man created to reflect?
- ☪ How are we to reflect God's knowledge?
- ☪ How are we to reflect God's righteousness?
- ☪ How are we to reflect God's holiness?

Prayer

Notes: Having affirmed that man is created in God's image, the *Catechism* goes on to mention three specific attributes of God that man was created to reflect. Talk with your children about each of these, and discuss specific ways in which each of these qualities of God (knowledge, righteousness, and holiness) are to be seen in the lives of men. Knowledge involves man's ability to understand God's truth and communicate it to others. Righteousness involves man's actions toward others, as defined by God's perfect standard of right and wrong. Holiness involves man's interactions with God, being pure and set apart from sin. Explain to your children that we are unable, because of our sinful hearts, to reflect God's image in any of these ways, but that God has provided knowledge, righteousness, and holiness for us through Christ. When Christ dwells in our hearts—and only then—are we able to rightly reflect the image of God. Pray together, asking God to conform you more and more to the image of Christ, enabling you to reflect His knowledge, righteousness, and holiness.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 8A

Scripture: Read Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8:1-9

Key Thought: *God created man to exercise dominion.*

Questions:

- ☪ What responsibility did God give to the man and woman He created?
- ☪ What does it mean to exercise dominion over the creation in the name of God? How does this apply in the family? In the Church? In the world?

Prayer

Notes: We have seen that man was created to reflect the glory of God in the world. This implies the fulfillment of the purpose of God through the ongoing activities of life. God did not create man without purpose or meaning. He gave man a task to fulfill, namely, "to multiply and fill the earth, replenish and subdue it, and exercise dominion over the creatures." This has often been called the "Creation Mandate." Man has been given the task of governing the creatures as God's appointed

representative. He does not rule over the creatures for his own sake, but in the name of his Creator. Discuss with your family what it means to exercise godly dominion over every area of life. Talk about specific applications of godly dominion in the life of your family, in the church, and in the world. Pray together, asking God to help you to fulfill this awesome responsibility in the strength that Christ supplies.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 8A

Scripture: Read Colossians 1:13-23; Romans 8:28-30

Key Thought: *Christ is the image of the invisible God.*

Questions:

- ☪ Do we clearly reflect the image of God in our lives? Why not?
- ☪ What does Paul say about Jesus Christ?
- ☪ For what purpose did God predestine us?
- ☪ How do we become "conformed to the image of His Son"?

Prayer

Notes: We will look more closely at the Fall of man into sin in future lessons. For now, we will focus on the fact that although man was created to reflect God's image, his sin and corruption have made him unable to do so. Instead of reflecting God's knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, man's life is filled with ignorance, unrighteousness, and sin. But God's image has been made known to us through His Son Jesus Christ, and we have been predestined to be "conformed to the image of His Son." In all things, Jesus has the pre-eminence! It is through faith in His finished work that sinful men can be restored and transformed into creatures who reflect His beautiful attributes. This restoration is accomplished objectively by Christ alone, and is applied to individuals subjectively through faith as they are drawn by His irresistible grace. The image of God in man is restored through the process of repentance and faith. It is then progressively strengthened through the Spirit's work of sanctification. Explain to your children that in order to reflect God's image, they must confess their sins and receive the righteousness of Christ by faith. Show them that their growth in grace is the progressive revealing of the image of Christ in them. Pray together for God's work of grace to be shown forth to His glory.



Note: Only five lessons per week are included. You are encouraged to lead your family in worship seven days a week. On weekends, you may want to review or build upon the lessons from the previous week, discuss the sermon from Sunday morning, or work on questions from the Catechism or memory verses. These lesson suggestions are intended to provide a simple framework for parents to build upon. You are not limited to this content. The habit of morning and evening family worship is the biblical ideal. We hope you can use these lessons as a starting point for the development of a blessed practice of family worship in your home.