In the last session we showed how modern astronomy verifies the universe was created. Even more astounding is that science has discovered how the universe is fine-tuned for the existence of human life. Consider this: if the earth was not 93 million miles from the sun, was not tilted on its axis at precisely 23.4 degrees, did not rotate exactly once every 24 hours, or did not revolve around the sun every 365.25 days, we could not exist on this planet!

We traced God’s process to prepare the world for the pinnacle of His creation: The human race! Beginning in Genesis 2:4, we see how God made man and woman.

God formed man (Hebrew: Adam) and breathed into him the “breath of life” (v. 7). God placed the man, later named Adam, in a beautiful garden where nourishing plants grew. In the garden were two special trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God forbade Adam to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

As time passed God allowed Adam to name all the animals. Nonetheless, none was really adequate as his companion. Therefore, God put Adam to sleep and formed a woman from his rib. God brought them together and blessed the marriage of the man and woman (v. 24).

What is the special significance of God’s breathing life into Adam so that Adam became a “living being?” (v. 7) _______________________________________________________________________

Why did God forbid Adam to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? _______________________________________________________________________

Why is God’s definition of marriage so significant (v. 24)? (see Jesus’ affirmation: Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9) _______________________________________________________________________

NOTE: Downloadable versions of items identified as CD are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. Items identified as DVD are available in the Digital Video Bundle.

Additional training for Bible Studies for Life: Kids available at ministrygrid.com/web/biblestudiesforlife.
PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

“Genesis Time Line: Week Two,” “Time Line Events: Week Two” (Pack Items 3, 4)

1. Direct preteens’ attention to the “Genesis Time Line” from week one. Explain that you will add another section to the time line today.
2. Place the time line on the table. Lay the “Time Line Events” cards faceup in random order.
3. Instruct preteens to work together as they look up each Bible passage on the time line. Remind them to describe the events for each Bible passage on the back of each card and to use glue dots to attach the events in their proper place on the time line.
4. Attach the time line to the focal wall next to the portion from last week.
5. Challenge preteens to face away from the time line and state as many events as they can recall. Compliment them on their work.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Mirror Image, “Your Amazing World” (CD, track 1)

1. Group preteens in pairs. This activity will work best if preteens are paired according to height, but it will be fun and more challenging if the height difference is more extreme.
2. Designate the “leader” of the pair as the preteen whose birthday is closest to today. Instruct pairs to face each other. The leader will begin making simple motions (such as marching in place or fixing her hair). The other preteen will attempt to do the same actions, as if she is a mirror image to the leader.
3. Play “Your Amazing World,” and instruct preteens to begin.
4. When the song ends, tell preteens to stop and discuss how hard or simple it was. Allow the leader to share what her goal was during the song. (Did she try to make it difficult? Did she try to keep her actions simple?) Then allow the “mirror image” preteen to share his thoughts. (Was it hard? Do you think your leader tried to make you mess up?)
5. Tell preteens that in today’s Bible story, they will learn that God created us in His image. Make sure they understand that God never tries to trick them into doing something silly. He gives us His Word to help us know and follow Him.
6. Show the “God’s Plan for People: Introduction” video for the session.
STUDY THE BIBLE

GETTING TO THE POINT

► “God’s Amazing World Title Banner” (Pack Item 1)
  • Direct preteens’ attention to the title banner. Invite them to share their favorite things about God’s creation.
  • Remark that today’s Bible story will teach us that one of God’s creations was made in His own image.

LOOK IN THE BOOK

► Teaching Picture 2
  • Display the Teaching Picture. Guide preteens to form three groups. Give each group a “Genesis Reference Card.” Direct groups to read the passage in their Bibles and write a short summary on the back of their cards. Invite a volunteer from each group to share its summary.
  • Ensure that the following facts are presented:
    - Genesis 2:4-7—When God first created the earth, rain did not fall. Instead, water came out of the ground to water the trees and plants. God formed man from the dust and breathed life into him.
    - Genesis 2:8-9—God placed man in the garden of Eden. God put plants and trees that were beautiful and good for food in the garden. He also placed two special trees there: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
    - Genesis 2:10-14—God watered the garden with a river. That river divided into four rivers. There was gold and other special stones in the land.

► “In His Image” (Activity Page)
  • Direct preteens to turn in their Bibles to Genesis 2:15-24. Invite a volunteer to read the rest of the story aloud.
  • Instruct preteens to look in their Bibles and name the things over which God placed man in charge. (the garden of Eden, livestock, wild animals, and birds) Lead preteens to realize that although animals are amazing creations, they are not like people who are created in God’s image. God gave woman to man because nothing else was suitable to be his helper.
  • Direct preteens to complete “In His Image” on the Activity Page.
  • Help preteens think of specific ways they can reflect God’s character and imitate Jesus.
LIFE POINT
God made people in His own image.

REVIEW CHALLENGE
Teaching Picture 2
- Draw attention to the Teaching Picture. Invite volunteers to describe what is happening in the picture.
- Give each preteen a half sheet of paper and a pencil. Guide them to tear the paper into six strips.
- Guide preteens to examine each question written on the cups and write answers to each question. Then instruct preteens to put the answer in the correct cup.
- Once preteens have answered questions, give the cups to volunteers.
- Instruct volunteers to read the answers in each cup and count how many are correct. Review any questions most preteens did not answer correctly.

UNIT VERSE CHALLENGE
“Genesis 1:1 Unit Verse” (Pack Item 2)
- Point preteens’ attention to the poster, and lead preteens to read the verse aloud.
- Display the small toy, and explain to preteens that they will play a game of hide-and-seek using the weekly verse as a clue.
- State that a volunteer will leave the room while you hide the object. When that person comes back into the room, he will start looking for the object while the rest of the class says the weekly verse in unison. If he is far away from the object, the rest the group will whisper the verse quietly. The closer he moves to the object, the louder the group will repeat the verse.

MISSIONS
- Review the missions story and lead preteens to make comparisons about your church and the church in West Africa. Remind preteens that children in West Africa are learning the same Bible stories they are!
- Comment that Kimberly Cain hopes that as the children learn, they will grow up and choose to follow Christ. Kimberly believes that God has special plans for these children. Let preteens know that you have the same hope for them!

APPLY THE BIBLE AND PRAY
- Show the “God’s Plan for People: Life Action” video.
- Lead preteens in prayer. Allow group leaders to describe today’s Live It Out choices. Dismiss preteens to their groups.

Option: Memorize the Weekly Bible Verse:
Genesis 1:27.
CHOICE 1 (GIRLS)
► “I Want to Be Like Him” (Activity Page)
1. Remind girls that of all the things in God’s creation, only people were made in His own image.
2. Lead girls to complete “I Want to Be Like Him.”
3. Distribute supplies. Direct girls’ attention to the information they wrote on the “I Want to Be Like Him” activity. Demonstrate how to use that information to fill in the petals on the flower of ways they can act as they follow God.
4. Explain how to create an “His Image Sunflower” magnet:
   - Write one way girls want to be like God on each petal of the flower. (Girls may use the information on their Activity Pages.)
   - Place the magnet on back of the flower.
   - Put a generous amount of glue on the center circle of the flower.
   - Wrap a tissue square around their finger and stick it on the flower’s center so it puffs up and creates a 3-D effect. Repeat several times.
5. Compliment preteens on their sunflower magnets. Encourage them to place the magnets where they will see them everyday as a reminder that they are special and were created in God’s image! Tell girls that God thinks they are very special, and so do you!

CHOICE 2 (BOYS)
► “All God’s People Fun Facts” (Pack Item 8), “I Want to Be Like Him” (Activity Page)
1. Give each boy 10 marbles. Direct them to put all their marbles on the table in front of them.
2. Tell boys that you are going to read off a fun fact about people. If they think the fact is correct, they should pick up a marble and hold it in their right hand. If they think the fact is incorrect they should leave all their marbles on the table.
3. Read the fun facts (Pack Item 9). Pause after each one and give boys time to decide if they think the fact is true or false.
4. Once boys vote, read the correct answer. If they were incorrect, boys should put a marble in the bucket.
5. Continue to play until all the fun facts have been read.
6. Instruct boys to count their marbles. Congratulate the boy(s) with the most correct answers.
7. Explain that God did not make a boring world. Every single person He created is different. God doesn’t make mistakes, and we were all created in His image. Yet, in some ways we are all also the same. There are ways that all of us can be just like our Creator!

8. Guide boys to complete “I Want to Be Like Him” on the Activity Page. Remind boys they are special to God and to you!

**CHOICE 3 (BOYS AND GIRLS)**

**Paper Person, “In His Image,” “I Want to Be Like Him” (Activity Page)**

1. Review the information preteens learned about in “In His Image.”
2. Share with preteens that all people were created in God’s image. Lead them to complete “I Want to Be Like Him” on the Activity Page.
3. Direct preteens’ attention to the outline drawn on the paper. Invite volunteers to draw the following body parts on the outline: a nose, eyes, ears, mouth, and hair.
4. Guide preteens’ focus back to the “I Want to Be Like Him” activity. Explain that they should use the information they wrote on their Activity Page to suggest ways people could imitate the character of God. Allow volunteers to write those ideas near the eyes, feet, heart, hands, and so forth on the outline.
5. Emphasize to preteens that God loves them and made them in His image. Encourage them to think of ways they can be more like Him!

**WRAP UP**

- Play the “God’s Plan for People: Wrap Up” video for the session.
- Pray, thanking God that we are made in His image.
- Remind preteens to give their One Conversation™ pages to their parents.
GOD’S PLAN FOR PEOPLE

When God created everything, He formed the first man out of the dust on the ground and breathed life into his nostrils, and the man became alive.

God planted a garden in Eden and placed the man in the garden. God caused wonderful things to grow in the garden, including two very special trees. Four rivers went out to water the plants in the garden.

God told the man to work in the garden and watch over it. He also told the man that he could eat from any tree in the garden except the most special one.

God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper as his complement.” So God brought wild animals, livestock, and birds to the man. The man gave each creature a name. But none of the creatures was the right helper and complement for the man.

God caused a deep sleep to come over the man. God took one of his ribs and used it to form a woman. God brought the man to the woman.

The man said, “This one, at last, is made like me. She is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. She will be called ‘woman’ because she was taken from man.”

This is why, even today, men and women are created to bond together in marriage.

The man and woman lived in the garden together and felt no shame.

—BASED ON GENESIS 2:4-24
Take a quick look once again at Genesis 2:4-24. What other things in creation were created in God’s image?

Being created in God’s image does not mean we physically look like God. Rather, being created in God’s image means we have the ability to be a reflection of His glory. We can reflect God’s glory by the things we choose to believe and the way we choose to act.

You are special! You have been created in the image of God, to praise and glorify Him.

I WANT TO BE LIKE HIM

Because we were made in God’s image, we should always try to be like Him. The Bible tells us how to act in order to be a reflection of Him.

Read the following verses. What can you do to be more like God? Circle the things that make you more like God, and cross out the things do not.

Ephesians 5:1-4

Imitate God  Walk in love
Try to be like everyone else  Give thanks

Micah 6:8

Act justly  Show compassion
Do only what you want to do  Walk humbly

Fill in the blanks below with things that would please God. I am created in God’s image. I can have …

eyes that see

feet that go

a heart that loves

ea mind that thinks about

hands that help
Parents, today your preteen heard that God had a plan for the people He created. God created people in His image, and people are His most special creation. How does your family respond to being created in God’s image?

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING
God created people in His image.

PRETEENS

LIVE IT OUT
Discuss with your preteen what the term “in God’s image” means. What about the creation of people was different from all other things God created? List some characteristics your preteen has that are special only to him.

DAILY BIBLE READING
- Sunday: John 1:3
- Monday: 1 Timothy 2:13
- Tuesday: Genesis 5:1
- Wednesday: Genesis 5:2
- Thursday: Isaiah 43:7
- Friday: Luke 19:10
- Saturday: 1 Timothy 1:15

God’s Plan for People

GENESIS 2:4-24

BIBLE VERSE: Genesis 1:27

LIFE POINT: God made people in His own image.

When God created everything, He formed the first man out of the dust on the ground and breathed life into his nostrils.

God planted a garden in Eden and placed the man in the garden. God caused wonderful things to grow in the garden, including two very special trees. Four rivers went out to water the plants in the garden.

God told the man to work in the garden and watch over it. He told the man that he could eat from any tree in the garden except the special one.

God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper as his complement.” So God brought wild animals, livestock, and birds to the man. The man gave each creature a name. But none of the creatures was the right helper and complement for the man.

God caused a deep sleep to come over the man. God took one of his ribs and used it to form a woman. God brought the man to the woman.

The man said, “This one, at last, is made like me. She is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. She will be called ‘woman’ because she was taken from man.”

The man and woman lived in the garden together and felt no shame.

TAKE IT FURTHER
Check out the “God’s Plan for People” section of the Bible Studies For Life: Kids Family App.
IN THE BEGINNING
GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS
AND THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1:1
(HCSB)

IN THE BEGINNING
GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS
AND THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1:1
(NKJV)
IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.
Session 1

Session 2

Session 3

Session 4
TIME LINE EVENTS
Preteens Leader Pack, Fall 2016

Instructions: Use as directed during Practice Bible Skills, Unit 1, Sessions 1–4.
1. Your eyes stay the same size from birth to old age.  (True)

2. Most people lose 50 to 100 hairs on their scalp every day.  (True)

3. Eyelashes only live for about five months and then they fall out and are replaced.  (True)

4. Normally, girls have shorter tongues than boys, but their hearts beat faster than boys’ hearts.  (True)

5. Babies cannot cry tears until they are three days old. (False. Most babies can’t cry tears until they are about six weeks old.)

6. The hardest bone in your body is in your ear.  (True)

7. You sneeze at 50 miles per hour. (False. You actually sneeze at about 100 miles per hour.)

8. The length of your body is about the same as the width of your arms when they are stretched out.  (True)

9. You can live longer without food than you can without sleep.  (True)

10. The acid in your stomach could dissolve a razor blade.  (True)

11. Your brain is more active at night than during the day.  (True)

12. Different places on your tongue taste different things—salty, sour, bitter, and sweet. (False. All parts of your tongue can taste these things.)

13. You are taller in the evening than in the morning. (False. You are taller in the morning than the evening.)

14. You do not hear as well after eating a large meal.  (True)

15. Most people have tiny, microscopic creatures living in their eyelashes.  (True)

16. Everyone’s tongue print is the same. (False, tongue prints are like fingerprints. They are all different.)

17. The left side of your brain controls the left side of your body, and the right side of your brain controls the right side of your body. (False. The opposite is true.)

18. It is not possible to tickle yourself.  (True)

19. A person’s nails and hair continue to grow for two weeks after he dies. (False. This is a myth.)

20. Your nose and ears keep growing your whole life.  (True)

Sources:
http://eyecare.lenstore.co.uk/101-amazing-eye-facts
http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/humanbody/ears.html
http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/humanbody.html
http://icantseeyou.typepad.com/my_weblog/2008/02/100-very-cool-f.html
GENESIS 2:4-7

GENESIS 2:8-9

GENESIS 2:10-14
Children all over the world are important to Jesus. He loves them and wants them to learn about Him when they are very young. Christian workers, like Kimberly Cain in West Africa, love the children like Jesus does.

Sometimes Kimberly teaches kids as they sit on mats on the dusty ground. Sometimes she teaches kids at a local church where the roof is made of woven grass. That church building might not look like yours, but the children in West Africa are learning the same stories from the Bible that you are!

Kimberly uses a storying cloth to tell stories from the Bible. Each picture on the cloth tells a story. Kimberly tells children the story of creation and continues with stories about Jesus so children can grow up knowing Him and telling others about Him.

WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE AND MISSIONARIES IN WEST AFRICA:

- Pray that missionaries will be willing and able to learn the language spoken by the people so they can tell the people about Jesus.

- Pray for missionaries as they adjust to a different culture in a part of the world where the temperature stays very hot all year.

- Pray that the children of West Africa will learn to follow Jesus at a young age.