

Genesis 1:26-31

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Genesis 1:27

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

God's Masterpiece

Read Genesis 1:26-31.

Can you imagine God creating everything in just six days? He created a perfect world, and then He creatively stocked it with light, darkness, land, water, plants, and animals. God said all this was good.

But the earth was not very good. No, it took something more to make it complete. God needed something to rule over the created world. Not just anything would do. God had to create something in His own image—bearing His likeness. So He created humans. He created them in His image to rule over creation, to fill the earth, and to enjoy a relationship with Him.

The world God created was perfect. Of course, humans messed it up. Genesis 3 tells the story of how the world

changed after humanity first sinned. But even this does not change the fact that we are still the masterpieces of God's creation. We still have the task of ruling over creation—fish, birds, land animals, and even your own children (though it sometimes seems impossible!).

This week's Bible study challenges teenagers to view their lives as a result of God's creative act. Too often teenagers—and adults—value certain people's lives over others'. We strive to make life complete and comfortable while neglecting the value of the lives of the elderly, needy, homeless, unborn, or even non-Christian.

The truth is, God values all life the same. Do you? What have you done this week to show the value in other people's lives? Ask God to help you see people as He sees them. Thank God for creating you in His image and for making you the masterpiece of His creation.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

Connect . . .

Starting with the youngest person in the group, discuss everyone's answer to the question: What is the meaning of life? What views do other people have of the meaning of life? How would Hollywood filmmakers, Washington politicians, your favorite television character, and people from other religions answer that question?

Explore . . .

Read Genesis 1:26-31. **Read:** This is part of the story of the creation of the entire world. In just six days, God created the heavens, earth, everything on the earth, and all plants and animals. Then He created man and woman.

Discuss: What does the Bible say the meaning of life is?

Read: The Bible teaches that an all-powerful, loving God created humans. God created us because He wanted to have a relationship with us. He wanted to love us and for us to love Him, too. The meaning of life is to love God and to live for Him.

Transform . . .

Discuss: What should our attitude and actions towards others be if we really believe everyone was created in God's image? Who are the hardest people to act this way toward?

Everyone in the room share at least one thing they like about each person in the room.

Pray, thanking God for making us the masterpiece of His creation.