

Lesson 4

God Made Me

Bible Lesson: John 9:1-25. (See also John 9:26-38)

Memory Verse: I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. *Psalms 139:14*

Enrichment Memory Verse: My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them. *Psalms 139:15-16*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members...

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach...

- ✠ That God has created each person different from everyone else. Each one is made different because God has special plans for each one.
- ✠ That some people have disabilities or handicaps. These people are to be treated with kindness and understanding because God loves them and wants us to love them too.
- ✠ That God is wise in all that He does. We need to trust that He has created us exactly as He wants us to be and that He can use us to bring honor and glory to His name.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

1. Bring to class a variety of objects in a “Secret Stash” box or bag. Try to find objects that would represent something from each day of creation. If an object is unattainable, use a picture. As a review of Lesson 3 students will determine on which day God created the object. Be sure at least one object or picture is of a

person. A more detailed description of the activity is found in the *Review* and *Introduction to Lesson* sections.

2. Prepare the following to be used as a review of Lesson 3 and as an Introduction to Lesson 4. On a chalk or marker board, write the title: “Creation Chart”. Then list the days and a brief description of the things that were created on that day. Example:
 Creation Chart
 Day 1—created light and separated day from night
 Day 2—sky or heavens
 Day 3—separated water from dry land; created grass, plants
 Day 4—sun, moon, and stars
 Day 5—fish and birds
 Day 6—livestock, crawling creatures, wild animals, man

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Prayer Preparation

1. Thank God for His provision and supplying all your needs. Thank Him that He has made you the unique person that you are. Pray that He will use you, your abilities and your *inabilities*, to bring honor and glory to Him.
2. Thank God for His Word. Thank Him for salvation through the finished work of Christ on the cross.
3. Thank God for your students and the privilege of teaching them His Word
4. Pray that God will teach you as you prepare this lesson, and that He will prepare your students to receive His Word with open hearts.

B. Bible Study

In the New Testament, we have a number of instances of Jesus healing the lame, the blind, and the deaf. We see very clearly that our Savior has power over all things; the physical and the spiritual. The senses that we have are given to us by God who then uses them to convey His gracious gifts to us. We have ears that can hear the Gospel; we have eyes that see the beauty of creation; we can feel the warmth of our clothing around us; we can literally smell the roses; we can taste the good food that He daily provides to us. We are confessing that God made “me.” This creation is an act of a God who created and loves each of us as individuals. Sin has brought about significant problems in these good gifts to us. That which God called “very good” in the beginning now has to deal with the curse that sin brought to mankind.

In Romans 8:19-23 we are told that “the creation was subjected to futility” and “we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.” With sin came sickness and death. The list of diseases and other ways that our bodies deteriorate and succumb to death is long. Our God and Creator did not mean for this to be but mankind rebelled against God. What we hear in the meaning of the 1st Article is that the God who created us has not abandoned us even after the rebellion into sin. We will see this spoken of quite a bit in Articles 2 and 3 but even here we have the assurance that God has given and “preserves.”

In John 9 we have a glorious healing; a man was being given something he had never had before; he was given the use of his eyes. We too look forward to something even better, a day when the corruption of our bodies and souls will be taken away and we will be in the presence of the Savior. In this world, we have only ever known the effects of the Fall on that which God created and called, “very good.”

Even taking into account the Fall, and the corruption that has come to our bodies and all creation, we still marvel at the gift that God has given to us in our physical bodies. We are still able to say with David as he wrote, we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:13-16). This reminds us of the great privilege and opportunity that we have to uphold the sanctity of every human life because it is a life given and preserved by God. We recognize that God preserves our bodies and often does this through the gift of doctors and nurses who have the skills and abilities to perform surgeries and prescribe medicines. We thank God for the various ways that God has preserved our lives even in this broken and sinful world.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Lesson 4 teaches that God made each one of us unique individuals. As you welcome your students to class today and as a way to get to know them better, greet each one and **ASK** “So, what makes you different from all other people?”

Open with Prayer

Praise God that He is all powerful.
Thank God that He has created each one of us.
Ask God to help each one use his or her gifts and talents to bring honor and glory to Him.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to the students recite their memory work:
From the Bible: Psalm 33:6

And **From the Catechism:** *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists;

Review

EXPLAIN to the students that you have some objects in your “Secret Stash” bag that will remind them of the days of creation that they studied about in the last lesson. But, you need help deciding on which day God created that object. **PULL OUT** one of the objects and show it to the class. **ASK** What day of creation does this object remind you of?

TELL students they may use the Creation Chart on the board. **REPEAT** this activity about five times pulling out different objects. **NOTE:** *Don’t use the object that represents people at this time. That object will be used when you introduce the lesson.*

Introduce Wall Words

Abilities—Skills and talents are a person’s abilities. Each person has different skills and talents and is able to do different things. One person may have the ability to be very good at playing sports or doing

other physical activity, while another may be very good at reading or art or music; while still another person has the skill to work with animals. God has given each one his or her own special skills and talents.

Image—An image is a likeness of something else. Human beings were the only created thing that was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This does not mean that human beings *look* like God. This does mean that, like God, the first man and woman (Adam and Eve) were without sin and had perfect wisdom, perfect righteousness, perfect holiness, perfect peace, and perfect joy. However, man and woman lost this perfect image of God when they sinned.

Preserve—God creates each person with a body and soul, eyes and ears, and all his or her body parts. God preserves, or takes care of, this special creation because He wants to use people to accomplish His special plan and purpose.

Purpose—A purpose is the reason for which something exists. For instance, the purpose of a glass is to hold a liquid like milk or water so a person can drink from it. God has a purpose for each person He has created. He has made each one with unique gifts and talents so His plans can be accomplished.

Soul—The soul is the part of a person that nobody can see, the part that will exist (go on) forever. When God created the first man, Adam, He breathed life into him (Genesis 2:7). The Bible says that then man became a living soul. Man was different from animals because he had a soul. Man could think about God and about himself, and about what God wanted him to do and think. He could talk to God and be God’s friend. Since the creation of man, every person is born with a soul. God wants your soul to forever live with Him in heaven.

Wise—A person may know a lot of information and be really smart, but not be wise. A wise person uses what he or she knows and applies that knowledge to real life situations. Psalm 111:10 tells us that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Psalm 119 explains that studying God’s Word makes me “wiser than my enemies”, gives me “more insight than all my teachers” and helps me “understand more than the aged.” And James 1:5 says God will give wisdom to anyone who asks for it. Some other teachings on becoming wise and gaining wisdom are found in Psalm 19:7.

Introduce the Lesson

DIRECT the students’ attention back to your “Secret Stash” bag and the Creation Chart.

SAY There is one more object in my bag. I would like you to help me figure out what day of creation this object reminds you of. **REMOVE** the object that represents human beings. **PULL OUT** one of the objects and show it to the class. **ASK** What day of creation does this object remind you of? (*Day 6*)

SAY Today we are going to learn that God made each person unique. None of us look the same. None of us have the same gifts, talents, or abilities. Even identical twins are not exactly the same; there is usually something different between them so you can tell them apart.

Because each of you is different, you can do different things. **ASK** What is something you especially enjoy doing?

God has a special plan to use each one of you to bring honor and glory to Him. In today’s lesson we are going to learn how a man’s blindness was used to show God’s power.

Teach the Lesson

SAY turn to Lesson 4 in your book. **ASK** What is the title of this lesson? (*God Made Me*) Let’s **READ** the first paragraph to find out how God made you. **ASK** Did God make you out of dirt and then breathe life into you as He did with Adam? (*No*) Though none of us was created on day 6 of the creation week, God did make the human body with the ability to have babies. God made it possible for you to be born.

READ paragraph 2. **SAY** This paragraph reminds us that we are made in the image of God. This does not mean we look like God. We have eyes and ears and hands and feet and skin. God doesn’t have any of these because God is a spirit. This does mean that, like God, the first man and woman (Adam and Eve) were without sin and had perfect wisdom, perfect righteousness, perfect holiness, perfect peace, and perfect joy. However, man and woman lost this perfect image of God when they sinned.

READ paragraphs 3 and 4. **SAY** In these two paragraphs, find another name for God and underline it. (*Your Creator*) **ASK** What has your Creator given you? (*your body, your soul, your abilities*) **ASK** What is your soul? (*the part of you that will live forever*) **ASK** What are abilities? (*skills and talents; things you are able to do*) Because you have the abilities that you have, you can serve God in a way that no one else can. Often we hear the word *disability*. Someone with a

disability is not able to do all the things others can. They may not be able to see, or hear, or talk, or walk, or think the same way most people can. Sometimes we don't understand why someone has a disability or is different from others. Sometimes people aren't kind to others that are different. Sometimes we make fun of or tease people who can't read or walk or speak very well. We need to realize that God has given each person special abilities and *disabilities* to be used in service to Him.

Let's read about a man who was born different than most people. **READ** paragraphs 5 through 11. We would say the blind man had a disability, but Jesus performed a miracle and changed this man's body and soul. His disability was used to make known God's ability to heal both body and soul.

We can also be read about this miracle in John 9:1-25. **ASK** How was the man in our story different from others? (*He was blind.*) What did people think caused the man's blindness? (*his sin or the sins of his parents.*) What did Jesus say was the reason for the man's blindness? (*so the power of God might be shown in him*) How was God's might shown in the life of the blind man? (*God caused the blind man to see*) How did this miracle show that Jesus is God? (*only God can perform miracles—John 9:33*)

SAY Jesus made the blind man's eyes see because that was God's plan. Sometimes God heals people who are hurt or sick and makes them whole. But

sometimes He does not heal because He can use them better the way they are. Though God does not always heal a person's body, He is always willing to heal a person's sin-sick soul. As exciting as it must have been for the blind man to be able to see, something even more wonderful happened to the man. His spiritual eyes were opened and he came to believe in Jesus as his Savior (John 9:38) and worshiped Him. He loved Jesus for healing his body, but most of all for forgiving his sins and healing his soul.

Finish the lesson by **READING** the last two paragraphs (paragraphs 12-13).

ASK students to think about someone they know who is disabled or handicapped. Perhaps there is a student in the class who has a disability. **ASK** Can a disabled person serve God even with the disability? (*Absolutely. We ALL have limitations in our abilities. Encourage students to recognize their strengths and use those strengths to serve God.*)

With some sensitivity, guide a **DISCUSSION** on some ways the students can minimize their *inabilities* and maximize the *abilities* that God has blessed them with. **REMINDE** the students that God loves each one of them. No matter what their *inabilities* are, God still loves them. **REMINDE** them too, that God will use their abilities and *inabilities* to do mighty things for Him, if they are willing to follow God's ways.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—Psalm 139:14

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.

Use one of the memorization techniques at the front of the Teacher Manual to help students commit the Bible verse to memory.

CATECHISM

Have each student add the next segment of the Meaning: to *that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members...*

Then the student may draw whatever kind of line he wishes to make an edge for the puzzle piece. Cut the piece off along that line.

Allow students time to place all their puzzle pieces together. At this point, the students should have

pieces for the following portion of The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists;

that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members...

Then read together all the segments of The Apostles' Creed that the students have.

the First Article of The Apostles' Creed:

Students should place the puzzle piece in their envelope.

Send the puzzle home with the students and encourage them to put their puzzle together once a day, read through it, and memorize the new section and any other sections they haven't committed to memory.

Activity Pages**Activity 1**

See answer key for location of words in puzzle.

Activity 2

ANSWERS:

1. *True*
2. *False; CHANGE "enjoy life" to "serve God"*

3. *False; CHANGE "because his parents had sinned" to "show the power of God"*
4. *False; CHANGE "Jordan River" to "pool of Siloam" (See John 9:7)*
5. *True*
6. *False; CHANGE "no one" to "many."*

CLOSING THE LESSON**Closing Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for using Your great wisdom when you made each one of us. Thank You for our bodies and the way they work. Help us to love and trust You more and more each day so that You can use us to serve You and others. Forgive us for when we have been mean to someone because they are different than we are. Help us to be loving and kind to others, because You love them and want us to be kind to them. We pray for people that are handicapped or disabled that they would understand that You love them and want to do mighty things through them. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen

Assignment

1. Send the Apostles' Creed puzzle home with the students and encourage them to put their puzzle together once a day, read through it, and memorize the new section and any other sections they haven't committed to memory.
2. Send Activity sheets home with students. Encourage students to use these pages to tell their parents what they learned today in class.
3. Remind students to memorize Psalm 139:14 and the first three segments of The Apostles' Creed
4. Advanced students can also memorize Psalm 139:15-16