

## **QUESTION 4:**

### **HOW AND WHY DID GOD CREATE US?**

**ANSWER :** GOD CREATED US MALE AND FEMALE IN HIS OWN IMAGE TO KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM, LIVE WITH HIM AND GLORIFY HIM. AND IT IS RIGHT THAT WE WHO WERE CREATED BY GOD SHOULD LIVE TO HIS GLORY.

#### **50 minute Lesson Outline:**

- Catechism Recap (5 mins)
- Introduction to Question (5 mins)
- Teaching Outline (15 mins)
- Discussion and Question Time (20 mins)
- Virtue Vision (5 mins)

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 1:26-31

**Memory Verse:** Genesis 1:27

**Big Idea:** Men and women are created by God, in His image and for his glory.

**Aim:** To help us fully understand that we were made in the image of God and for His glory.

**Virtue:** Love

#### **LEADER'S NOTES:**

We are increasingly exposed to evolutionary theory that is used to discredit the existence of God and the fact that the world was created by God and for His glory. If we're not fully versed in the Christian doctrine of creation, we will find it difficult to stand apart when faced with disagreements about the origins of the world and humanity. **This lesson aims to engage us with biblical truth concerning the creation of humanity and to understand why God chose to create men and women. We were created by a loving God in order to rule over His creation and to show His likeness to the world, while glorifying Him with our lives.**

**Things to remember:**

- It can be difficult to engage with this question in relation to the theory of evolution. Our goal is to develop the confidence with the knowledge that God created people in His image and likeness and for His glory.
- Questions concerning gender roles and structure are prevalent across our culture. Be sensitive while clearly demonstrating that God created two genders and doesn't make mistakes.

**CATECHISM RECAP/REVIEW:****Question 1 - What is our only hope in life and death?**

**Answer:** That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Question 2 - What is God?**

**Answer:** God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in His power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice and truth. Nothing happens except through Him and by His will.

**Question 3 - How many persons are there in God?**

**Answer:** There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

**TEACHING OUTLINE****QUESTION 4: HOW AND WHY DID GOD CREATE US?**

*Explain:* Many people around the world today do not believe in God and therefore do not believe that human beings were created but rather they developed or evolved accidentally over a long period of time. Christians disagree with this belief and confidently believe that human beings were made by God, the Creator of all things.

*Ask:* Compare the difference between growing up thinking that you're alive because of a random development on Earth, and knowing that you were created by a loving and good God. **Does this knowledge make a difference in how we view our worth and purpose in life?**

The Bible clearly declares that God made humans not because He was lonely or because He needed some sort of help on Earth, but because He is loving and relational. God did not need people, but He decided to create and use people as part of His plan for His world.

### **READ: Genesis 1:26-31**

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### **Genesis**

*Explain:* In the Ancient Near East, a king would often set up an image or statue of himself to show his rule over an area. The image would communicate to everyone that the king was in charge of the land. (See *Illustrations of Ancient Near East Statues*)

Genesis 1:26-27 declares that God made us in His image and placed us in His world to rule over all other created things. Humans aren't statues, but we are made in the image and likeness of God, to represent Him and His rule on Earth. Humans were given authority by God to rule over all the earth!

So humans were not accidents that just evolved on earth. They were the pinnacle of God's creation – nothing else was created in God's image! At the end of the 6th day God surveyed everything and saw that it was very good.

**What do you think it means to be made in the image of God?**

*Think about all the differences found throughout humanity and creation.*

*Explain:* Humans are made in God's likeness. This means that we will be like God in many ways – in character rather than appearance. We are God's representatives here on Earth, and so we are called to reflect His image in our lives.

### **Here are some ways we get to do that:**

**Creative:** God is creative. He instructed Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 to use their creativity to rule over creation.

**Communicative:** God is a God who speaks, and so we too are made to communicate.

**Relational:** God is in perfect relationship as the Trinity, and being made in His image means that we are relational too. Ultimately we are made for relationship with God.

**Loving:** God's purpose in creating humans was love, and so we are called to live and rule showing God's loving character to the world.

## **REVIEW**

### **Question 4: How and why did God create us?**

**Answer:** God created us male and female in his own image to know Him, love Him, live with Him and glorify Him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to His Glory.

## **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY**

*Activity:* Have each member of your group identify all the ways that humans are different from the rest of God's creation. Fill in the outlines of the human bodies with words or drawings that describe or show the differences.

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

(Allow for several answers within your group before reading the provided response.)

- 1. Can we really believe that human beings were created by God?** Yes! Millions of people do and have done so throughout history. Remember, Genesis wasn't meant to be a scientific book describing every detail of how humans were created, rather it's about the beginning of God's great creation.
- 2. How did God actually make people?** The Bible describes how Adam and Eve were made, and everyone else descended from them. We know that God created everything out of nothing. (Hebrews 11:3) After He created the earth, he created Adam from the dust of the earth, breathing life into his nostrils. (Genesis 2:7,21-22)
- 3. What about the theory of evolution?** This theory – that we are here by accident rather than created – is often taught as fact, but it is just a theory. Many Christian scientists affirm the biblical account of creation, that God created us out of nothing.

## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

**How will you reflect God's image in His world?**

**Has sin affected your ability to reflect His image?**

**How would you reasonably start a conversation with someone who believes that human beings evolved rather than having been created?**

**VIRTUE: LOVE**

God created us out of love and in order to be His image bearers in the world we should be loving too.

**Does this mean only loving the people you like or who like you?**

**Does this mean only loving people who act like you or look like you?**

**Does loving the way God loves mean something much more?**

Discuss what it would look like if you were always concerned with showing God's love to your siblings, parents, friends and neighbors.

**Name at least one person that you want to love well.**

---

**MEMORIZE Genesis 1:27**

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.