**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** August 19, 2018

**SUBJECT: CREATION: THE TRIUNE GOD CREATED MAN - HIS MASTERPIECE**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7;Job 32:8;Isaiah42:5*;* Zechariah 12:1; 1 Corinthians 2:11; John 4:24; 1 Thessalonians5:23

**AIM**: To see that man is God’s highest and ultimate creature made in God’s image.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM**: Genesis 1:26-27 (**26** And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. **27** And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.); Ephesians 2:l0a (For we are His masterpiece…); Psalm 139:14a (I will praise You, for I am awesomely and wonderfully made;…)

**SONG SUGGESTIONS:** 7 (I Am A Very Special Child); [186](http://173.68.175.102/Children_song.asp?req_type=Play&req_no=186) ([Do You Know What You're Made For](http://173.68.175.102/Children_song.asp?req_type=SHOW&req_no=186)); 187 (God Created Me); 188 (Heaven’s For Earth); 74 (Boys and Girls for Jesus); 192 (We Are Different); 109 (Isn’t He Wonderful); 59 (O Who Can Make a Flower); *BSS God’s Design #2* (Before God Put the Leaves on the Trees); BSS God’s Design #9 (God is So Good to Me); *BSS God’s Design #17* (God Made You; God Made Me)

**CRAFT IDEA:** Have the children create a self-portrait (see attachment for templates).

**BACKGROUND:** God’s desire from eternity past has been that He would be manifested and expressed in the universe. Hence, in His creation—in the heavens and the earth and all things therein—we see some characteristics of God’s Being. For example, the sun, which is bright, warm, and dependable, reminds us of God. The earth, full of riches and abundance, supporting all manner of life, also testifies concerning our God, the source of life. The seas are full of varied and wonderful creatures and even in the deepest and coldest parts, God is there. The birds that soar through the air, so light and free, declare the transcendent and boundless life of God. Innumerable plants, flowers, and trees of various kinds in every region of the earth are available as food, as medicine for healing (e.g., herbs), and as beautiful adornments to the earth—and all proclaim God’s power and glory. The animals who are so faithful and strong and able to work and carry heavy burdens for man, also remind us of God’s love and care for mankind. The higher the level of created life, the more characteristics of God we can see. What a declaration of God’s incredible wisdom, strength, love, and beauty!

When God considered all that He had created up to this point, He was still not completely satisfied. There was not one creature that fully matched Him, not one with whom He could talk and share His feelings, or to whom He could reveal His heart’s desire. So, God concluded His creating work by forming His masterpiece—man.

**CONTENT:**

**I. Man is made in God’s image—Genesis 1:26-27**

The Bible tells us that God created man in His own image and likeness. Throughout the entire account of creation, this is the only time God spoke such a word! *Only* man was created in God’s image and likeness, not the animals. God purposely and intentionally created man in His own image and likeness. “Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (Genesis 2:7) Man was created with a physical body in the likeness of God and with a soul and spirit in the image of God. Image refers to the inward expression, i.e., mind, emotion, will. Likeness refers to the outward expression, i.e., body, form. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 says that man is of three parts—spirit, and soul, and body. All creatures were created “after their kind,” and man was made after God’s kind, God’s likeness. Man is higher than the animals; man is different from the animals. Man is made in God’s image. Animals are not. Man matches God. We have a mind to think. (What are you thinking about now?) We have emotions to feel. (Sometimes we are happy; sometimes we are sad; sometimes we are scared.) We also have a will to choose. (During the day we make many choices. For example, which Lego set do we want to play with today? Which book do we want to read today? What kind of snack would we like to have today?) God has mercy and compassion on man and we have the same capacity because we were made in His image. Deep within man, God formed the spirit of man so that man can worship God. Animals can be quite clever, but they do not worship their Creator. They do not pray like we do. God did not make them that way. Man is the highest and ultimate creature in God’s creation. In fact, all of creation is for man. God’s desire was to have man.

**II.** **God was satisfied, therefore He rested—Genesis 1:31 - 2:1-3**

God created man on the 6th day. “And God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day…And on the seventh day God finished His work which he had done and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He Had done.” God rested from all His work, not because He was tired, but because He was satisfied. God was busy working (creating) until He completed His masterpiece, man. It was at this point that God was able to stop His work of creation. God’s rest was not because He got tired. He doesn’t get tired! But He rested because the creation of man brought satisfaction to God. As His work of creation was progressing, God saw that it was good; but when He created man, God saw that “...itwas **very good**.”

We can imagine God as an artist Who, after completing many works of art, finally completed His masterpiece—man. Ephesians 2:l0a says, “For we areHis masterpiece.” Man was God’s glorious workmanship and masterpiece. The completion of this masterpiece definitely produced a real satisfaction and rest for God. There was no need for God to continue working (i.e., creating). God can see that man is the proper creation to fulfill His purpose. Oh, what a rest!

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Covering one or two applications may be sufficient depending on the age group.***

* **We should be those who express God.** Although we were created in the image of God, sometimes we do not act very “godly.” God is compassionate, kind and loving. Are we? Do we take care of our younger brothers or sisters? As we learn to listen to the Lord and obey Him, we will express Him. Instead of fighting over what game to play, we can be kind to our siblings and let them choose their favorite game. Instead of yelling at our sister, we can offer to help her with her homework because she does not understand the homework assignment. God made man so that we can express Him.
* **God made human beings in a special way.** Can you imagine how it would be if we did not have 2 arms and 2 legs, or 10 fingers and 10 toes? Could we hold a cup without fingers? What if we didn’t have a mouth and a tongue – would we be able to speak or eat? What if we didn’t have a nose to smell the food that we eat? Think about how marvelous the human body is in its intricate detail! Each of us is also unique in our personality and likes and dislikes. There is no one in this world exactly like you and me. We should be full of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for creating us in such a special way! In turn, this should cause us to love the Lord more.

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children’s Meeting Lessons: 1/26/86; 8/20/95; 8/19/01; 8/19/07; 7/7/13

