

The Image of God

Genesis 1:26–31

VISUAL AIDS

Before you begin, you want the children to understand the word “image,” so bring a fairly large mirror to class with you. Have each child look into it. Who is peering back at them? Whom do they see in the mirror? No, they are not in the mirror. The real person is sitting right there, facing the mirror. What they see is just a reflection or image of themselves. You can also bring a small plastic or china animal, such as a horse. Ask the children, “What is this?” The whole class will probably answer, “A horse!” Then you can instruct them, “No, it is not a horse. It is an image of a horse.” The same idea can be illustrated with a photograph. Bring a recognizable photo of yourself. Once again you can ask, “Who is this?” and answer, “No, I’m right here. This is just an image of me.” Bring some coins too. When I taught this class, I gave each child a Canadian penny and an American penny. Whose images are on the coins? Queen Elizabeth and President Lincoln! At the end of this discussion time, your children should be interested in the word “image” and this difficult lesson on the image of God.

MEMORY WORK

“God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

CRAFT

This is the lesson to bring out the playdough! The children can make “images” of animals. Suggest creatures with striking characteristics, such as an elephant or a giraffe or a snake. (Bring from the children’s section of the library, a Barbara Reid book, such as *Two By Two*, for interesting examples of little clay crea-

tures.) Examine each child's work and discuss it. "Is this an elephant? No, it's a model or image or likeness of an elephant. It is not an exact representation of an elephant. Only God (or other elephants) can make a real one. How do we know that this is meant to be an image of an elephant? It's grey and has a long trunk and big ears." This little craft time is meant to underline the main points of the lesson: Man, created in God's image, has characteristics of God, but he is not God.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What special gift did God give to human beings, that was given to no other creature on earth?
2. What are three ways that people were made to be like God?
3. There was a Man who was the exact representation of God, a Man who was God. What was His name?

PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for creating us and loving us and giving us Your own image. LORD, help us be holy, even as You are holy. LORD, we thank You that, by faith, we are being conformed to the image of Your Son. We thank You that by Your grace, whenever people turn to the LORD, they "all reflect the LORD's glory . . . being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory" (II Corinthians 3:18). God, we thank You for all these blessings.

PSALMS TO SING

100ABC . . . and 7B (9); 29A (1); 97A; 111A (1-3); 136A (1&2); 138AB; 145A.

FIELD TRIP

There are several places you could go with the children to discuss "images." Art galleries are filled with images—paintings, sculptures, photographs, etc. You could go to a fun house, where there are strange mirrors that distort the images reflected in them. You could go to shrines or temples or even some churches, where people have made images of God, called idols. You could discuss how it is wrong to worship images in the form of anything. The LORD alone, the eternal and invisible God, is worthy of worship.

(This student lesson starts on page 38.)

The Gift of Life

Genesis 2:7

VISUAL AIDS

It's time to make another trip to your local library, where you can find amazing books about our amazing bodies. The children's section will have wonderful picture books on the human body, which you might find helpful for this class. Particularly useful would be photography books with action shots of people doing amazing things. You can show your class pictures of gymnasts, runners, dancers, swimmers, skaters, jumpers, divers, etc. You can show pictures of people playing the piano, riding a bike, crocheting lace, throwing a ball, typing on a computer—anything and everything! It will be more difficult to find pictures of people loving, hoping and trusting, but they are available. Once again, *The Family of Man* is a good source book.

MEMORY WORK

“O LORD . . . I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14)

CRAFT

Does your classroom have a bulletin board? Self-portraits (with the child's signature on their work) would be a lovely display under this lesson's Bible verse. Does your church/school have a xerox machine? Just for fun, take a little trip to the office and xerox each child's hand. Human hands are a wonderful creation of God's, that are able to do so many things. You might point out that human hands made xerox machines! There are many amazing machines made by human hands and planned by human minds, but the hands and the minds of human beings are God's creation! Or you could make unique presents to send

home for the parents—fingerprint bookmarks. All you need are an ink pad, strips of cardboard and little willing fingers. Don't forget to tell the children that their fingerprints are unique and that they are unique. There are no two fingerprints and there are no two people in all the world which are identical, not even “identical” twins!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Man was not created out of nothing. What did God use to form man's body?
2. How did God make man a living being?
3. God gave you life. What should you give God?
4. Why did God make man?
5. What is your favourite activity? Have you thanked God for that ability?

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of life.

(Perhaps each child would like to thank God for some ability or activity, which they particularly enjoy. You, the teacher, could also thank the LORD for each precious person that is in your class. Mention them by name! Give thanks to God for creating each one of them!)

PSALMS TO SING

139B . . . and 71A; 100ABC; 119J.

FIELD TRIP

You can go almost anywhere to see people doing amazing things. Watch some boys playing hockey or some girls jumping rope. Watch a man twirling a pizza or a grandma knitting some socks. Go to a musical concert or a ballet recital. Watch a track meet or a gymnastics demonstration. As you watch, teach the children about the LORD and the good gift of life, which He graciously gave to us.

(This student lesson starts on page 41.)

The Gift of A Garden

Genesis 2:4–17

VISUAL AIDS

What you need for this lesson are pictures of cultivated lands throughout the world: wheat fields in Canada, vineyards in France, orange groves in U.S.A., flower gardens in England, rice terraces in China, potato crops in Ireland, olive trees in Israel, tulip beds in Holland, etc., etc.

MEMORY WORK

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:31)

CRAFT

A simple craft would be to cut a large circular “garden” out of green construction paper for each child. In the centre of the garden the memory work could be glued in a smaller white circle. Then the children can surround God’s Word in the centre with all kinds of delicious fruits and gorgeous flowers. Those old seed catalogues would come in handy again. If you want to tackle a more complicated project, each child could plant a real little garden (or terrarium.) You will need pie plates (or large glass jars,) earth, mosses, plants, pebbles, etc. — and lots of patience!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where did God place the man whom He had made?
2. What did God plant in the centre of the garden?
3. What did God plant in the rest of the garden?
4. What command did God give to the first man?
5. What would happen if he disobeyed that command?

6. What command does God give to us now?
7. What will happen if we disobey that command? What does God promise to give us if we obey that command?

PRAYER

LORD, we thank You for Your LOVE in sending Your one and only Son to die for our sins. Help us obey Your Word and believe Your Son and trust Your promises. LORD, we pray that each child here might have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and so be saved.

PSALMS TO SING

119F . . . and 3 (5); 13 (5); 25AB; 119ABCE.

FIELD TRIP

People have planted beautiful gardens! Take a trip to one of them. Even in the middle of winter, there are public greenhouse gardens that are especially enjoyable to visit in the cold bleak months. For several years I lived in a little cottage on an estate near New Hope, Pennsylvania. The two old ladies who owned the property had spent almost their entire ninety years planting exquisite trees and flowers. There were pink magnolia trees, yellow forsythia bushes, white dogwoods, purple lilacs, red azaleas, and many other shrubs whose names I did not even know. These spinster sisters had planted fields of daffodils, beds of tulips, borders of irises, and every summer flower imaginable. Don't underestimate the abilities of the little old ladies in your congregation or neighbourhood. A trip to one of their flower gardens could prove to be a worthwhile visit. Remember to impress upon your young students: If these are the gardens that people can make, just imagine the garden that the LORD made!

(This student lesson starts on page 45.)

The First Wedding

Genesis 2:15–25

VISUAL AIDS

Pictures of couples and pictures of weddings and pictures of families from all around the world will stimulate interest in this lesson. Once again, *The Family of Man* by Edward Steichen has excellent photographs. (See pages 182 and 183: “We two form a multitude.”)

MEMORY WORK

1. “Marriage should be honoured by all.” (Hebrews 13:4)
2. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” (Ephesians 5:31)

CRAFT

Have the children draw pictures of a bride and groom. If there are no children with single parents or divorced parents in your class, perhaps the assignment could be to draw pictures of their fathers and mothers on their wedding days. If you want to enhance the project, mount the drawings on a large piece of bright construction paper. Smear glue around this frame and scatter it with confetti, sparkles, or rice. If you have a bulletin board, set up a display of their wedding pictures by decorating the board with white paper bells and twisted streamers. After all, weddings are a celebration!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What work did God give the man?
2. What did God say was not good?
3. What did man need?

4. How did God make the woman?
5. What did the man say when he saw her?
6. Was it good, how God made people male and female?
7. Was it fair, the place God gave to each of them?

PRAYER

Our loving heavenly Father, thank You for making human beings in two genders. Thank You for making men and women, fathers and mothers, boys and girls. LORD, we thank You for marriages and for families. We ask that at the right time You would provide the right partner for each boy and girl here, a person who will love them and who will love You for the rest of their lives. May these children know the joy of a godly marriage.

PSALMS TO SING

128B . . . and 21AC, 45C, 111A, 127A.

FIELD TRIP

It would be wonderful if you could take your children to a real wedding, but if an invitation to one is not so providentially arranged, you might see one on a Saturday afternoon in the city, especially in the month of June. Just to see a bride and groom descending the church steps and being showered with confetti from well-wishers and driving off in a decorated car with horns blaring is all very exciting to young children!

(This student lesson starts on page 49.)

The Seventh Day, A Holy Day

Genesis 2:1–3

VISUAL AIDS

Show the children an ordinary calendar. Thousands of years later, people still recognize the seven-day week. Although the names given to the days are pagan names honouring pagan gods, the seven-day week honours the one true God. Most people now think of the week beginning on Monday (and some calendars even begin the week there,) but they are wrong. The first day of the week is Sunday, the LORD's Day, the New Covenant Sabbath.

MEMORY WORK

“The LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Exodus 20:11)

CRAFT

We wish one another a “Merry Christmas” or a “Happy Birthday” and we send cards for these special days, but there is only one day that the LORD set apart and blessed. It is the Sabbath! Surely on this day we should greet one another with a “good sabbath,” as well as a “good morning.” Your class could make cards to take home to their families. The children could draw pictures of happy people praising God and inside the cards could be this greeting: HAPPY LORD'S DAY!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did God do on the seventh day?
2. Why was the seventh day special? Who made it special?
3. For whom was this day made?
4. Did the man and the woman begin their life on the earth with rest or work? Why?

5. Did God rest from every kind of work when He finished making the world? What other work did He still have to do?
6. What is the common name of the first day of the week? Why was the Sabbath changed from the seventh day to the first day? Who made this change?
7. Where can we find rest and peace for our souls?

PRAYER

LORD, we thank You for the Sabbath day! We thank You for the work that You have finished for us. Thank You for creating the world and redeeming the world. Thank You for making us and saving us. We thank You for Jesus, for the rest and the peace that we have in Him, which is found nowhere else in world. LORD, help us to remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy. Help us to delight in this holy day, that we might find our joy in You.

PSALMS TO SING

118C (14–17) . . . and 72D; 96A; 100ABC; 121ABC; 134AB; 150AB.

FIELD TRIP

It used to be in this country that on a Sunday afternoon you could drive down the main street of your town and the stores would all be closed. You could drive along the side streets and everything would be quiet. Sadly, what you now can show your children is how the LORD's Sabbath is ignored and despised. People are mowing their lawns and doing their chores; they are selling their wares and buying their goods on a day meant for rest and peace and worship. If there is a religious Jewish community nearby, you could show your children how they still keep the seventh-day Sabbath. Their shops and stores are closed on Saturday and they attend the synagogue to worship the Creator.

(This student lesson starts on page 54.)

War in Heaven

Revelation 12:1–17

VISUAL AIDS

Alas! We have no photographs of the angels; no, not a single one. (However, if people have entertained angels unawares, then they may have taken their pictures also, thinking they were ordinary human beings.) There is no photo you can show your children of the war in heaven. These spirits have left no physical evidence of their appearances on earth and we must rely on the infallible testimony of Scripture that they have been seen and heard by human witnesses. But you could show the children the sad photo documents of the recent wars on earth.

MEMORY WORK

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith . . .” (I Peter 5:8, 9)

CRAFT

Any Christmas craft book from a public library is sure to have ideas for making angels. Also available is *A Christmas Angel Collection* by Catherine Stock, (Random House, New York). Angels can be made quite simply from gold, silver, or white paper doilies. Use one half to make cone-shaped robes. Use the other half to make wings. You will need gold, silver or white painted styrofoam balls or wooden beads for the heads, tinsel for halos, and pipe cleaners for arms.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Before God created people, had He created anyone else?

2. There was war in heaven. Who fought? Who won?
3. There is an evil angel roaming and prowling through the earth. He has several names. What are they?
4. Who is more powerful, God or the devil?
5. Why did Satan rebel against God? What did he want?
6. Why did Satan want to destroy the man and woman?
7. What should angels and people everywhere, both in heaven and on earth, be doing?

PRAYER

LORD, we thank You for Your truth and goodness in a world filled with lies and wickedness. Please, deliver us from evil and protect us from the devil. Strengthen us, that we may stand firm in the faith, resisting every temptation.

PSALMS TO SING

103D . . . and 27B; 34AC; 35AB, 91A, 148.

FIELD TRIP

There is no place on this earth where we can go to view the heavenly host. Jacob's ladder, with the angels of God ascending and descending on it, were for his eyes alone. However, if there is a field of soft white snow, take your children there to make "snow angels." A little friend of mine on a winter walk was observing the different tracks that the animals had made when he came across the clear outlines of angels. Not knowing that these imprints were made by children, he thought it was a place where some angels had landed. Explain to your children, that the angels come and go without a trace. They leave no footprints, nor do they drop shimmering feathers from heavenly wings.

(This student lesson starts on page 58.)

The Day of Evil

Genesis 2:25

VISUAL AIDS

Pictures of the armour and weapons mentioned in this passage of Scripture, (such as a breastplate, helmet, shield, sword, arrows, etc.) would be useful for this lesson.

MEMORY WORK

“Be strong in the LORD and in His mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes . . . Put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (Ephesians 6:10, 11, 13). Emphasize standing as opposed to falling.

CRAFT

This is the lesson to line up your little soldiers and arm them for battle. (Of course, you have been doing just that as you study the Bible with them, but now they can know that the Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit.) Have your favourite Bible verses printed in profusion and cut into strips for the children to paste in a collage onto cardboard swords. In bold red letters write the words: SWORD OF THE SPIRIT = THE WORD OF GOD.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which day was the evil day?
2. What did Satan want to stop?
3. How could he do this?
4. What was Satan from the beginning?

5. What protection did the man and woman have against the devil's schemes?
6. What weapon did God give to them?
7. How must we fight against Satan's attacks?

PRAYER

O LORD, we thank You for Your LOVE and Truth and Grace, by which we are able to stand against our adversary, the devil. LORD, keep us from slipping or stumbling or falling. Deliver us this day and every day from the Evil One. Please, LORD, plant our feet firmly upon the Rock, even Christ Jesus, our Lord.

(Pray for each child, by name, that he/she would not waver in faith, but be strong in the LORD, in His mighty power.)

PSALMS TO SING

18A . . . and 3; 11; 28A (1, 2, 6–8); 33C; 35A; 44A; 45A; 46ABC; 59B (7, 12, 13); 91A; 144A; 149.

FIELD TRIP

If you are fortunate enough to have a museum nearby, where shining armour has been left by knights of old, that would be an excellent place to review our God-given armour and weapons.

(This student lesson starts on page 69.)

The Serpent

Genesis 3:1–5

VISUAL AIDS

Pictures of different kinds of snakes, with their many patterns and poisons, would be useful for this class.

MEMORY WORK

1. “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you.” (James 4:7, 8)
2. Jesus said, “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.” (Luke 10:19)

CRAFT

Colourful serpents can be made easily by small children with multicoloured plasticine. Coiled snakes can also be made by cutting paper in a spiral. The children can paint them in bold bright colours.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did Satan disguise himself?
2. Why did the devil choose the serpent for his wicked work?
3. How did the serpent strike at the woman? What did the devil use as his flaming arrows?
4. What did Satan ask the woman? What was her answer? Did she add anything to God's Word?
5. What did Satan tell the woman? Was it true? What did he hope his lies would accomplish?

6. What should the woman have done when she heard God's Word contradicted? To whom should she have turned for help?
7. When you are being tempted where should you turn for help?

PRAYER

LORD, You are our help, our strength, our shield, our Saviour! Thank You for the truth of Your Word. Please give us discernment, that we would not be deceived by the lies of Satan. Oh Lord, lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.

PSALMS TO SING

120 (1); 140A . . . and 5AB; 12AB; 36A; 52AB; 62A; 91A; 119P.

FIELD TRIP

If there is a natural history section at a local museum, which has a snake display, or if there is a snake pit at your local zoo, or if you happen to have a friend whose hobby it is to charm snakes, this would be the appropriate time to visit them! Or perhaps, (if you live anywhere in the world except Ireland,) you could take your children on a snake hunt, looking for specimens of harmless serpents.

(This student lesson starts on page 72.)

The First Temptation

Genesis 3:4–6

VISUAL AIDS

What you need for this class are a variety of lures. Do you know a fisherman who would lend you his fishing tackle for this class? Watch out for the hooks as you examine them. Show the children how the fish are fooled by the shining, spinning bits of metal that look like swimming minnows and how they are then caught by the hooks. Teach the children that Satan's words were lies, similar to those lures.

MEMORY WORK

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6)

CRAFT

To make a lure is a simple project. Have cardboard or paper fish-shapes ready for the children to colour. They can also paste strips of silver paper onto them. Attach to the lures a harmless “hook” (made of bent wire) and tie them onto the ends of long pieces of string. Sticks may be added to make fishing poles, but make sure no one gets poked. This is a very popular project, as small children love to pretend to fish.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What were the three lures that Satan used to tempt the woman to eat the forbidden fruit?
2. Whose words should the woman believe, God's or Satan's?
3. If anyone lacks wisdom, what should they do?

PRAYER

LORD, we thank You for the opportunity to study the Bible, which is the Word of God and which is able to make us wise. LORD, we ask You for wisdom concerning everything that is good. We ask You for knowledge concerning the LORD and his Law.

PSALMS TO SING

119E . . . and 19B (5–7); 111B (9), 119CDJMQR.

FIELD TRIP

A little fishing expedition could be fun and, as the hooks and baits and lures are used to catch the unsuspecting fish, remind the children of this lesson: Satan used lies to lure the woman to sin.

(This student lesson starts on page 77.)

The Fall

Genesis 3:6

VISUAL AIDS

To stimulate interest in this lesson, you may wish to discuss * WARNING * signs. Bring some labels that warn of poisonous, corrosive and flammable products. Discuss the flashing red lights at intersections and railway crossings. Show the children some of the many road signs that warn of danger. Discuss fire alarms and air-raid sirens. Then you can teach your class that God has made each person with an inner warning mechanism, called a conscience, that alerts us to danger. Our conscience does not ring an alarm for us to hear or flash a red light for us to see, but nonetheless it makes us aware of what is right and wrong (Romans 2:14, 15). We know when we are about to sin and our conscience warns us not to do it! God's Word is also a warning. Hold up a Bible before the class and say, "There are many words of warning in this book. Pay attention to them! They will keep you from danger and from death."

MEMORY WORK

"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned . . ." (Romans 5:12)

CRAFT

Make red-and-white, warning, octagon, stop signs. On them in bold letters print the words: STOP! DANGER! DON'T SIN! The sign posts can be made from drinking straws and the bases from plasticine. Your class can also make warning flags. Use small squares of red material glued to sticks or straws. The object of the lesson: Be on guard against sin!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The serpent was tempting the woman to eat, but what three things were advising her and warning her not to eat?
2. What was the woman's first step towards the fall?
3. What was her next step?
4. What was the final step, when she fell into sin?
5. What was the first thing she did as a sinner?
6. The man also fell into sin. How?
7. What happened to the whole human race when the man sinned?

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, give us ears to hear the warnings of Your Word. Please, LORD, deliver us from harm, evil and temptation. Bless us and keep us for Your name's sake. And God, we do thank You for Your LOVE, mercy and forgiveness, for we have all sinned and rebelled against You.

PSALMS TO SING

19B . . . and 5B; 26A; 92A; 119E; 145B.

FIELD TRIP

Go for a walk along any city street, noting all the warning signs and sounds, such as flashing lights, bicycle bells, stop signs, honking horns, red flags, screaming sirens, etc.

(This student lesson starts on page 81.)

The Word Fulfilled

Genesis 3:7

VISUAL AIDS

A friend sent me a large fig leaf from Israel. The children in my class, who have only lived in cold northern climates, had no idea what kind of leaf it was. They were very interested to see a real fig leaf, the very kind that Adam and his wife used to sew clothes for themselves. However, if it is not possible to bring such a leaf to class, you could bring pictures of fig trees and leaves. You could also bring some dried figs or fig cookies for them to eat. Now men and women sew cotton and linen fabrics for clothing, some samples of which you could show the children, along with the plants from which they come.

MEMORY WORK

“There is no one righteous, not even one . . . There is no one who does good, not even one.” (Romans 3:10, 12)

CRAFT

You will need a needle and some thread for each child. If you have a supply of fig leaves—great! Your children can try sewing real fig leaves together. (If you live in Canada, you will have to substitute some maple leaves.) However, people don't make clothes out of leaves now. We use fabrics, often made from plant fibres. Involve the children in a simple sewing project with cotton or linen material.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Satan promised the man and woman that their eyes would be opened. Were they? What did they see? What did they do?

2. Satan promised that they would be like God. Were they?
3. Satan promised they would gain knowledge. Did they?
4. God promised they would die. Did they?
5. What are the three kinds of death?
6. How was God's LOVE demonstrated on that evil day? Did the man and woman die immediately? Did they die completely?
7. Jesus promises to restore what Satan destroyed. Can we trust this promise of God? Can we trust every promise of God?

PRAYER

LORD, we thank You for Your promises to us, which You always keep. We thank You for Your Word, which is always true. Thank You for the promise of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

PSALMS TO SING

96B . . . and 5AB; 6; 18D; 107B; 119FGPQSTUVW.

FIELD TRIP

Take the children to a garment or fabric factory. People are still making clothes to cover their nakedness.

(This student lesson starts on page 86.)