

PRAYER

- Thank God for creating the world and everything in it as good. Thank Him for creating you in His image and putting His love, value, and purpose in you.
- Ask God to display His power and goodness in your life more and more every day. Pray that faith will rise up in you as you continue to walk with Him.
- Pray that as you seek God daily and live out the identity and purpose He has for you, you will be an effective witness to those around you.

NOTES

THE STORY OF US

WEEK 1

Image of God

WARM-UP

- When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grow up? Why?
- Have you ever created anything that you are proud of? What was it?
- Tell us about a time you used an object for something other than its intended purpose. What was the object and what happened?

WORD

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

GENESIS 1:1

(Read also **GENESIS 1.**)

In the Bible, Genesis is the book that details the origin of man and the whole world. It is God who established everything—He is the Creator, Designer, and, therefore, the Ultimate Authority over everything. Today, we will look at the wisdom and intent of God when He created the world out of nothing and man in His image.



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1 God created the world.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **GENESIS 1:1,2**

Before God established the world, *the earth was without form and void*. Throughout the first chapter of Genesis, we can see how God filled the earth with light, land, plants, and different animals. God created and designed everything, and called it *good*. This shows that He is the one who determines what is good and what is not. In the same way, His Word reveals to us what is good and what is not. How does knowing this affect the way you live?

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2 God created man in His image.

²⁶Then 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."
²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **GENESIS 1:26,27**

(Read also **GENESIS 2:7,8.**)

After He had created everything, God created man. This time He didn't use words, but carefully *formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostril the breath of life*. The way God created man set us apart from the rest of creation. Not only were we formed by His hands, but we were also created in *His own image* and made with a specific purpose—to fill the earth with His glory and steward His creation. Each individual is significant to God. What does Psalm 139:13-17 say about how valuable we are to God?

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APPLICATION

- Do you have an intimate relationship with your Creator? Would you like to give your life to Him and know Him more today?
- How does knowing that God is good and powerful encourage you to walk in faith today? What is one area in your life where you need to experience His goodness and power?
- Are you fully convinced that God values you and has a purpose for you? What is one thing you can do today to walk in the identity and purpose that He has for you?