

GCG Sunday School - 17th September 2023

Lesson Outline



Lesson: Made in His image: To work and keep.
Series: Mini series in Genesis 1-3.
Passage: Genesis 1:26-28, 2:10-17
Big Idea: We were made to show God's image, by living how he made us to live.
Main Aim: Let's be excited about God's plan to fill the world with people who show His image.

Before starting prep

Please pray for the lesson preparation, for yourself and for the children.
May we all be built up this week by the amazing truth in God's word.

Laptop (and Bluetooth speaker for more volume) check

Unless you are at the Greenwich service, you will need to bring a laptop to play the videos and songs. If needed, Jonny can provide a laptop and Bluetooth speaker. 😊

Additional resources: [GCG Sunday School Google Drive](#), [Grace Church - Bitesize Theology - In the image of God he created them...](#)

Passage summary

This week, we'll be focussing particularly on what God's design for man and woman was in the garden.

In 1:26-28, Mankind is created in God's good world. Man and woman were created in the image of God, distinct from the animals. This means that they were to show/ display/ reflect what God is like to the world, as they rightly ruled over God's creation.

God commanded people to fill the earth with image-bearers, this is God's plan and this is **very good!**

Let's zoom in more as the account is retold:

In 2:10-17, God isn't a mean, tight-fisted God. He is a generous God. The words used to describe creation here are truly **amazing!** This is God's good world.

In 2:15-17, God commands the man (Who is primarily responsible for this, cf. 3:9-12), and it is key that they are **obedient**. God's image is reflected correctly, as we rule over creation by working and keeping it.

So we can **delight**, in the goodness of God and His incredibly good creation, setting us up for the shock of The Fall in two weeks' time.

Let's therefore trust God's plan for the world to be filled with obedient people who reflect God's nature to the world.

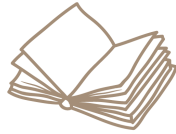
This happens today as Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, **gladly** obey God and rule over creation as we were meant to. The world is being filled with people who want to reflect God's image, as people believe in the gospel and are transformed by it.

Andrew Latimer's Bitesize Theology - Link above, is very helpful for the final point.

The format (suggestion)



Get Going



Main Teaching



Brain Break



Heart & Hands

Canada Water and Greenwich: Use the material to make **Get Going, Main Teaching and Brain Break** accessible for all ages present. Then for **Heart & Hands**, prepare material and your helpers to divide into two groups for separate teaching.

Eltham: Feel free to personalise **all material** for the Sailors or Officers.

Outline

Welcome the children and pray

- This is a good time to connect with the children briefly.
 - You could ask them a simple question: What was the best playground they saw this week? What was the tastiest thing they ate? What was the most fun thing they did?
- Begin the lesson with a prayer.
 - Let's listen carefully to what God has to say to us today.



Get Going

Recap, Intro Idea & Song

Very Speedy Recap - Remind them briefly of last week's Big Idea and Main Aim

Do you remember what we spoke about last week?

Show some pictures or give clues to prompt memory.

Big Idea: God created us in His own image, male and female, equal but different.

Main Aim: Trust God's good, precious design however he made us.

Link: We'll see more today about what it means to be made in God's image.

Intro Idea

- Sailors - Portraits and the real people. How are they different?

Take photos/ use selfies of the Sunday school leaders and helpers.

Print them off (Michaela can print them if submitted to Jonny before Friday lunchtime).

Ask the children, which one is the real "Jonny/[insert leader's name here]"?

How can you tell?

How is the picture like Jonny?

How is the picture different from Jonny?

- Officers - Models and the real thing. How are they different? (Could also use Sailor idea)

Model car, model train, model person.

How much is the model like the real thing?

How much is the model not like the real thing?

Distorted models and the real thing?

The models are now messed up, missing wheels, broken windows.

How much now is the model like/ not like the real thing?

Link: Like the models/ pictures show us what the real thing is like,
we're all made in God's image to show the world what God is like.
We show some of what God is like, by living how he made us to live.

Song

- You will need to talk through the words and actions before singing.
 - Sailors - [▶ Just the Way God Wanted Us to Be \[Official Video\]](#)
Lyrics - On the link.

Actions - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMYuQW2j-Dg>

I suggest that we change the following actions:

- Introduction and interludes - Feel free to do something less cheesy.
- During the chorus lyrics, for example at 1:00,
"He made us boys, he made us girls"
I'd suggest that while girls point to the boys, or vice versa, the mentioned gender jumps and puts their hands in the air, instead of the suggested boy/ girl actions in the video.

- Officers - I think this would be really fun for them to learn and perform sometime!!
Maybe at the weekend away.
[▶ God Made Me and You \(Official Audio\)](#)
Lyrics - On the link.



Main Teaching

Teaching the Big Idea & Main Aim.

Have a Bible open throughout. Feel free to read portions of it out word for word or paraphrase so they see that the story comes from God's word, and not from our heads.

- Sailors - *Tell the story. Ask questions along the way.
Get to the Big Idea, then arrive at the Main Aim.
Maybe use a helper with you to play different roles in the story.*

Show the same thing twice from chapter 1 and chapter 2.

1. God made Man and Woman in His image, in a really good world.
2. God gave them a job to do.
 - a. Fill the earth and subdue it. Chapter 1.
 - b. Work and keep it. Chapter 2.

1. We were made in His image, in a really good world. 1:26-28.

Remember from last week: God made the world, the sky, the sea the land.

Do you remember what God said about it? It was good.

Then God made man and woman, in His image, different from the animals.

Were the man and woman like the animals, or different from the animals?

2. God gave them a job to do - to fill the earth with His image. v28

In His image, we're like a picture of God. We show to the world what God is like.

But how? Well, God gave man and woman a job to do.

We should rule over God's creation, we're not like the animals, we're different.

God told Adam and Eve to fill the earth and to rule over it.

They had to fill the earth with people carrying His image.

And they had to show God's image, by ruling over creation.

God is a ruler, He is king. So like that, Adam and Eve had to rule.

3. We were made in His image, in a really good world, 2:10-17.

Describe the amazing scenery.

Who would like to visit? Who would like to go there on holiday?

God is such an amazingly generous God!

He gave all of this to man and woman.

How good is this world? Can you show me with your hands?

4. God gave them a job to do - to show God's image by working rightly, 2:15-17.

Man and woman had to do something, they weren't on holiday.

They had to work and keep the garden, rule over God's world.

God is a working God, so man and woman had to work, to show what God is like.

They were given one command, eat fruit from every tree, but do not eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That is a protected tree.

Which tree should they not eat from?

Which trees could they eat from? Point with your fingers to the right picture.

So they showed what God is like, by obeying Him, by living rightly.

Summary:

God made Man and Woman in His image, in a really good world.

God gave them a job to do:

Fill the earth and subdue it. Chapter 1.

To fill the earth with God's image.

Work and keep it. Chapter 2.

To show God's image.

The people were going to multiply and fill the world!

This is happening today as people obey Jesus and put their trust in Him.

God has such a good plan to fill the world with people who show His image.

We can all be really excited about that!

- Officers - *Mini, interactive talk through the text.
Get to the Big Idea, then arrive at the Main Aim.
Maybe have a child or helper be the voice of different people in the passage.*

Maybe: act it out, or have them draw something or shout out the best thing they see in the passage.

Show the same thing twice from chapter 1 and chapter 2.

1. God made Man and Woman in His image, in a really good world.
2. God gave them a job to do. (Fill the earth with image carriers & show this image to the world)
 - a. Fill the earth and subdue it. Chapter 1.
 - b. Work and keep it. Chapter 2.

1. We were made in His image, in a really good world. 1:26-28.

2. God gave them a job to do - to fill the earth with His image. v28

God told Adam and Eve to fill the earth and to rule over it.

They had to fill the earth with people carrying his image.

And they had to show God's image, by ruling over creation.

God is a ruler, he is king. So like that, Adam and Eve had to rule under God.

3. We were made in His image, in a really good world, 2:10-17.

Describe the amazing scenery. Who would like to visit?

God is such an amazingly generous God!

4. God gave them a job to do - to show God's image by working rightly, 2:15-17.

God is a working God, so to show what God is like, Adam and Eve were to work the garden.

The image of God is shown off to the world, as people obey him.

They were given one command, eat fruit from every tree, but do not eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That is a protected tree.

Summary:

God made Man and Woman in His image, in a really good world.

God gave them a job to do:

Fill the earth and subdue it. Chapter 1.

To fill the earth with God's image.

Work and keep it. Chapter 2.

To show God's image.

The people were going to multiply and fill the world!

This is happening today as people obey Jesus and put their trust in him.

God has such a good plan to fill the world with people who show His image.

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Brain Break

A chance to rest the children's minds.

Game idea

- Sailors - [Captain's coming - Genesis 1&2 edition!](#)

[Play captain's coming with commands from the passage.](#)

Rule creation! Eat the fruit of every tree! Work and keep the garden!

You can come up with your own better ones!

Message me if you don't know how the game works.

- Officers - Who's being copied?

Everyone sits/ stands in a circle.

One person leaves the room or puts their hands over their eyes. (So they don't know who the leader is)

The remaining people choose a leader who will do actions with their hands/ body.

The rest of the circle will copy the leader.

The best actions are repetitive, clapping, tapping the knee, dance moves, blinking etc.

The person who left the room/ circle then rejoins the group and stands in the middle of the circle.

This person then needs to find who is leading the rest of the circle.

The leader will keep making actions and being copied, until they're found out.

Message me if you'd like further explanation!



Heart and Hands

Think more about the Main Aim through Discussion and Activities.

Discussion - What would it look like to believe the Main Aim?

Think through with the children what the Main Aim means for our lives.

- Sailors - This is really good news.

Today and tomorrow at school, we can all remember that:

- God is so generous, he gave people an amazing, beautiful world to enjoy.
- God has a good plan, to fill the whole world with people made in his image.
- We show what God is like best, when we obey his words.
 - This means trusting Jesus. We show what God is like, when we're trusting in and living for Jesus.

- Officers - This is really good news.

Today and tomorrow at school, we can all remember that:

- How generous was/is God to people?
 - God is so generous, he gave people an amazing, beautiful world to enjoy.
- What's God's plan for people?
 - God has a good plan, for people to show off his image and to fill the whole world with people made in his image who want to show it off.
- We show what God is like best, when we obey his words.
 - This means trusting Jesus. We show what God is like when we're trusting in and living for Jesus.
 - God is growing the number of people showing off his image as more people trust in Jesus. Children of Christian parents, or people who hear and believe.
- How can we show off what God is like at school?
 - Living how Jesus asks us to, even when it's tricky.

What can we thank God for?

What challenges us from this passage?

Activities - Craft or worksheet

- Sailors - [Craft](#)

Cut out and decorate the crowns to show how we reflect a bit of what God is like, but God is the real king.

[All materials are provided in the Sunday school box.](#)

- Officers - [Worksheet](#)


Talk through the questions and think about applications to stretch the more able children.

Quick application recap - Remind them of the Big Idea and Main Aim.

Memory verse

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. Revelation 4:11

[Ideas for learning the memory verse.](#) I will provide the verse on laminated paper with Blu Tack.

- Sailors - [It would be fun to learn using this song:](#)
 [Revelation 4:11 Song](#)
[Actions are available on a separate video that I'll make.](#)
- Officers - If capable, they can come up with a rap/ spoken word for the verse.
They can repeat and improve it each week.

Pray

Encourage the children to pray with you about the Big Idea and Main Aim.

- Sailors - [You could ask for hands up/ thumbs up for those who would like to pray, or you could try the idea we use with Officers.](#)
- Officers - You could pass an object, like a Bible, around the room. When a child receives the Bible, they can choose to pray in their head or aloud.

Sign out with Take Home Sheets

- While signing out with Rollcall, Take Home sheets will be provided to carers and parents about the children's lesson.

Final notes

The following items will be printed for you and brought to the lesson:

- Main teaching pictures.
- Activities: Sailors craft and Officers worksheets.
- Memory verse, laminated.
- Take Home Sheets.

Additional materials will be available:

- Craft materials.
- Pens, paper, glue, scissors.