**1. Motivate**

What is your *least* favorite household responsibility?

* washing the dishes

A video introduction is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_m34xrmou> If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4kupu9cs>

* taking out the trash
* running the vacuum cleaner, dusting
* keeping the shrubs looking nice
* mowing the lawn
* cleaning out the garage
* doing the laundry, ironing clothes
* making the bed
* cleaning the bathroom
* unstopping drains (especially when you have to run a “snake” down from the roof)
* putting the kids to bed
* satisfying all the different preferences for packed lunches

**2. Transition**

Ultimately, our responsibilities at home and at work are given to us by God

* He created us to serve and honor Him.
* Our responsibilities can be a means of satisfaction and fulfillment.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God Created Everything

Listen for how things started.

Genesis 1:1-5 (NIV) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

Use your imagination … how do you think it looked when God created something out of nothing?

Remember that people “create” with preexisting materials or thoughts. God began with nothing.

* at first space was empty, then … whump … planets (and later, plants and animals) appear
* this would fit the so called “Big Bang” theory
* maybe it was more like a slow dissolve on a video screen … hazy at first then more and more solid
* maybe there was a string of related objects appearing in sequence, each one just a bit different than the others – boing, boing, boing …

Consider that very first verse … how does accepting that statement as fact impact how you view life and the world?

* God is the source of all that exists
* we owe our very existence to Him
* we realize we are not here by *chance* … God *purposed* to bring all things into existence
* if He is the creative source, then He is the ultimate authority
* He deserves, I owe Him my submission, worship, obedience
* His power to create something from nothing implies/affirms that He can handle any need that exists in my life

What is the significance of God *speaking* the creation into existence?

* He didn’t take a bunch of raw materials and fashion things
* By an act of His will He spoke the raw materials into existence
* Contrast our “creativity” … we take “stuff” and make things … we *innovate*, not create (paintings, carvings, sculpture, music, etc.)
* God brings things into existence by His command

What difference does it make that the Creator, *not the creation*, is at the center of the creation story?

* God is the instigator
* His power and authority are what made it happen
* it did not happen on its own, by chance
* He created all that we have, all that we are with a purpose, not on a whim

When might someone’s *life* feel formless and empty, as described in verse 2?

* without Christ
* after a failure
* often teenagers feel this way
* when you are alone, without friends and family

What can God do for us when we experience emptiness?

* bring light into our lives … the light of the good news of Jesus Christ
* bring order to our lives
* provide spiritual life which gives us purpose
* give us a personal relationship with Him … the very Creator of all that exists
* it will be made *good* !

3.2 Created in God’s Image

Listen for *how* we were created.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

What do you think it means when you read that you are made “in the image of God”?

* it doesn’t mean you are a God
* think snapshot or facsimile of God
* we occupy a higher place in the created order
* godliness is the path to greatest fulfillment
* you are creative because God is creative
* you are spiritual because God is Spirit
* you communicate because God communicates
* we have intelligence, emotions, a will
* since God is relational or social, so are you
* you are morally responsible because God is a moral being
* consider that when a child is conceived, we participate with God in bringing a personality into existence that did not exist before
* our sperm and egg unite and a physical being is created from that union, but the *personality* comes into being at that conception

According to these verses, how does humankind fit into God’s plan and purpose for His creation?

* we rule over and manage the rest of God’s creation around us
* we work with the natural resources in order to provide for our lives
* we have created (innovated) an infrastructure to make our lives more convenient

What evidence do you see in this passage that God places high value on us?

* we are made in His likeness
* He gave us important responsibilities
* He gave us the capabilities to carry out those responsibilities
* He was willing to give of Himself to rescue us from sin’s penalty and power

How can you celebrate the blessing of being made in God’s image?

* if you are made like Him, show a “family resemblance”
* submit to His Lordship
* worship Him, praise Him
* share who Jesus is with others around you … like showing family pictures

God places high value on us … how can we place a higher value on others?

* acts of kindness
* encouraging them, praying for them
* introduce them to Jesus!
* JOY ⬄ **J**esus first, **O**thers second, **Y**ourself last

3.3 Commissioned to Care for and Enjoy Creation

Listen for God’s purpose for humanity.

Genesis 1:28-31 (NIV) God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

What actions of God stated in verse 28 suggest a unique relationship between God and human beings?

* God blessed them (and us)
* He wants us to create life also
* we have the opportunity and responsibility to accomplish good things with what God has given us
* gives us the responsibility to subdue (control, restrain) all we have

What blessings and provision of God are identified in these verses?

* all the living creatures
* all plant life
* provision for food

How did God evaluate the totality of His creation?

* He looked at all Had made … surveyed all of creation
* declared it *very* good

How does understanding that God created the universe and everything in it—including you—help you discover purpose for living and bring you joy?

* God delights in helping and providing for us
* He loves us and works to accomplish good things in our lives
* getting to know Him and His purposes will enable us to experience His desires for us
* living by God’s principles and in dependence on Him (faith) accomplishes His will for us

What are some of the most fulfilling things you can do to render service to God and give honorable witness to who He is in your life?

* having a daily time where you specifically communicate with Him
* spend time with the One who loves you … God
* live financially in dependence on Him … tithing
* be involved and in obedience to the Great Commission – in Kingdom ministries
* personal and corporate worship and praise
* taking a role in the ministry of the Body of Christ … the Church … using your Spiritual Gifts to serve Him

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Praise.

* Take a few minutes to thank God for creating you—and then thank Him for creating you in His image.
* Ask for His help to live out this great privilege and responsibility.

List.

* Write down a few characteristics that God’s image-bearers should have and evaluate yourself on them.
* How can you better represent the Lord?

Disciple.

* We are to lead others to know and grow in Christ, the One who restores the sin-marred image of God in us.
* Who are two other people in your life with whom you can begin meeting regularly so that you can help them to be like Him?
* Make a plan to reach out to them.

Fallen Phrases Puzzle

I can see what happened … some of the letters fell straight down. Look for two and three letter words and see what letters below make reasonable words. Some of the blanks have punctuation marks, those aren’t fly specks. Spiros the Spy needs this message to pass along to the staff counselor. If you need help go to <https://tinyurl.com/4kupu9cs> . You won’t need binoculars to see other cool stuff there, also!

