

Lesson 5

Creating God's Eternal Family

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In this series, we have looked at God's creation from the smallest known elements to the vastness of the universe! In the last family guide, we explored the fact that God created humans as living breathing physical beings who can die. God's overall plan and purpose is to bring humans into His family as spirit-born eternal beings, who will live forever. It is a process that begins with people believing in God and living by His way of life.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NCV) *If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new! All this is from God...*

So how can people be transformed from a physical creation to an eternal creation? God worked out the whole process before the Genesis 1 creation!! To understand, let's review some clues that God gives us.

Clue One: If we look at what God has created, we can understand what God is doing to establish His new creation.

Romans 1:19-20 (CEB) *...what is known about God should be plain to them because God made it plain to them. Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—God's eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made.*

Clue Two: Human's dominion over animals is similar to God's dominion over humans.

Genesis 1:26 (NCV) *Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the tame animals, over all the earth, and over all the small crawling animals on the earth."*

Suggested Videos

To help understand how God is working with humans, have your family work through this scenario.

Your family has decided to adopt a dog from the pound.

- What do you need to do to prepare for his arrival in your home?
 - Where will he sleep? What kind of food will be good for him?
 - Who is going to feed him?
 - Who is going to be responsible to train him?
- What rules will you make that he have to learn and follow?
 - "Potty train"
 - Don't chew furniture
 - Don't bite
 - Don't always bark

Review this or similar article <https://www.wikihow.com/Prepare-Your-Household-for-a-New-Dog>

It takes a lot of thought and planning for humans to properly care for and rule over animals. For your family and your pet to live together in a happy household the rules must be followed.

God prepared long ago to bring people into His Spiritual household.

Notice that God planned and prepared for humans even before His physical creation. God created the earth as a step in the process of bringing humans into His Kingdom.

Just as a family might pre-determine what would be needed to bring a pet into its' home, God put a lot of planning into what humans would need to become part of His "household."

Matthew 25:34 Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...

:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

:5 (NLT) His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.

:10 (NLT) And this is his plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

:11 Furthermore, because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us from the beginning, and all things happen just as he decided long ago.

Ephesians 2:19 (NIV) ...you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.

John 17:24 (NIV) "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

What rules did God put in place so that humans can be happy in His Family?

Before the creation of the world, God lovingly established rules for humans to follow that would ensure happiness, peace and success in their physical lives, and on into the Eternal Kingdom.

The Bible uses the term "wisdom" to refer to a way of life that follows God's laws.

Psalms 111:10 Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.

As a family read Proverbs 8:22-36. When did God establish these rules for mankind?

Proverbs 8:22-23 (NCV) "I, wisdom, was with the Lord when he began his work, long before he made anything else. I was created in the very beginning, even before the world began

:32 "Now, my children, listen to me, because those who follow my ways are happy.

:35 Those who find me find life, and the Lord will be pleased with them.

Given to humans at Creation

God created the two trees in the garden that represented God's way of life and man's way of life.

Genesis 2:8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight

and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Do you know someone who had to get rid of a pet that could not be trained to behave? A dog that bit people. Could not be “potty trained.” Tore up the furniture. Barked incessantly. An unruly animal cannot stay in the household if there is to be peace.

Adam and Eve chose to follow Satan’s way of life, so they could not stay in the garden because they could not follow God’s rules.

Genesis 3:23 ...therefore the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden...

Resources

- Follow these two links to read about the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil:

1. UCG Commentary on Genesis 3: <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/bible-commentary/bible-commentary-genesis-3>

Quote: For all of us, these two trees remain a figurative representation of the choice we have—either to embrace what God has to say about right and wrong and be blessed with life or to decide for ourselves and be cursed with suffering and death.

2. Booklet *Christ’s Reign on Earth*: <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/christs-reign-on-earth-what-it-will-be-like/introduction>

Quote: The choice between God’s way—represented by the Tree of Life—and man’s way, represented by the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, is still taking place today. It involves you and every person on this earth. You may not realize it, but every single day you make many choices between the fruits of these two trees. Every day you choose between obedience and self-will; peace and conflict; eternity and mortality.

Given to God’s People—Ancient Israel

Deuteronomy 5:32-33 (NCV) So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you, and follow the commands exactly. Live the way the Lord your God has commanded you so that you may live and have what is good and have a long life in the land you will take.

Continued into the New Creation.

Revelation 21:1-5 (NLT) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!”

Who will be a part of God's New Creation?

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city...

Fun and Meaningful Facts

Fact One

Day four of Creation shows when the Holy Days are to be observed.

- The Hebrew word *moed* [4150 New Exhaustive Strong's] means seasons; appointed times, a fixed time or season; specifically, a festival;
- Genesis 1:14 (GNT) Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin [moed]"

Fact Two

The time of the Holy Days are observed from "the lights in the sky"

- Leviticus 23:1-2 (GNT) The Lord gave Moses the following regulations for the religious festivals [moed] when the people of Israel are to gather for worship.
- :4 Proclaim the following festivals [moed] at the appointed times [moed].

Fact Three

The God established the seventh day Sabbath as a Holy Day

- Genesis 2:2 (GNT) *By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. 3 He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working.*
- Leviticus 23:1 [NLT] *These are the Lord's appointed festivals, which you are to proclaim as official days for holy assembly.*
- :3 *"You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of complete rest, an official day for holy assembly...."*
- :4 *"In addition to the Sabbath, these are the Lord's appointed festivals, the official days for holy assembly that are to be celebrated at their proper times each year."*

Fact Four

Jewish tradition says that Adam sang a song about the Sabbath

The Talmud confirms this saying that Psalm 92 was sung on the morning of the Sabbath at the drink offering which followed the sacrifice of the first lamb (Numbers 28:9). Some ancient writers thought perhaps that this last Psalm was composed by Adam as tribute to the seventh day of Creation [NIV Application Commentary on Psalm 92].

Fact Five

The Sabbath reveals God's plan of Salvation and the "New Creation"

- Sabbath is a weekly day of rest from work
- The seventh day also typifies the "Sabbath rest" during the millennium and eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Hebrews 4:9-11 (CEV) But God has promised us a Sabbath when we will rest, even though it has not yet come. On that day God's people will rest from their work, just as God rested from his

work. We should do our best to enter that place of rest, so that none of us will disobey and miss going there...

- The “Song of the Sabbath” in Psalm 92 implies rest on the seventh day AND eternal rest in the Kingdom of God.

[From Halley's Bible Handbook Notes on Psalm 92] *A Sabbath Hymn of Praise:* This hymn seems to look back to the Sabbath (the seventh day) of Creation, and forward to the age of the eternal Sabbath. The wicked will perish, the godly flourish.

[From NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible on Psalm 92] *A psalm. A song. For the Sabbath day.* The rest that God's people enjoyed on the Sabbath was more than simply the cessation of labor; it also signified a spiritual and final rest that was to come (Psalm 95:11; Deuteronomy 12:8–11; Hebrews 3:7–4:11). As the title indicates, God's people used this psalm for the weekly Sabbath worship, so it also expressed a longing for ultimate rest. Thus, it fits well with the emphasis on eternal life in Psalm 90–91.

Fact Six

The Holy Days outline God's plan for the New Creation, which begin with the Passover

- God planned everything before creation.

1 Peter 1:19–21 (NLT) It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days. Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

Matthew 25:34 Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

- God's Plan is shown through the Holy Days—See these Family Study Guides below for more details.

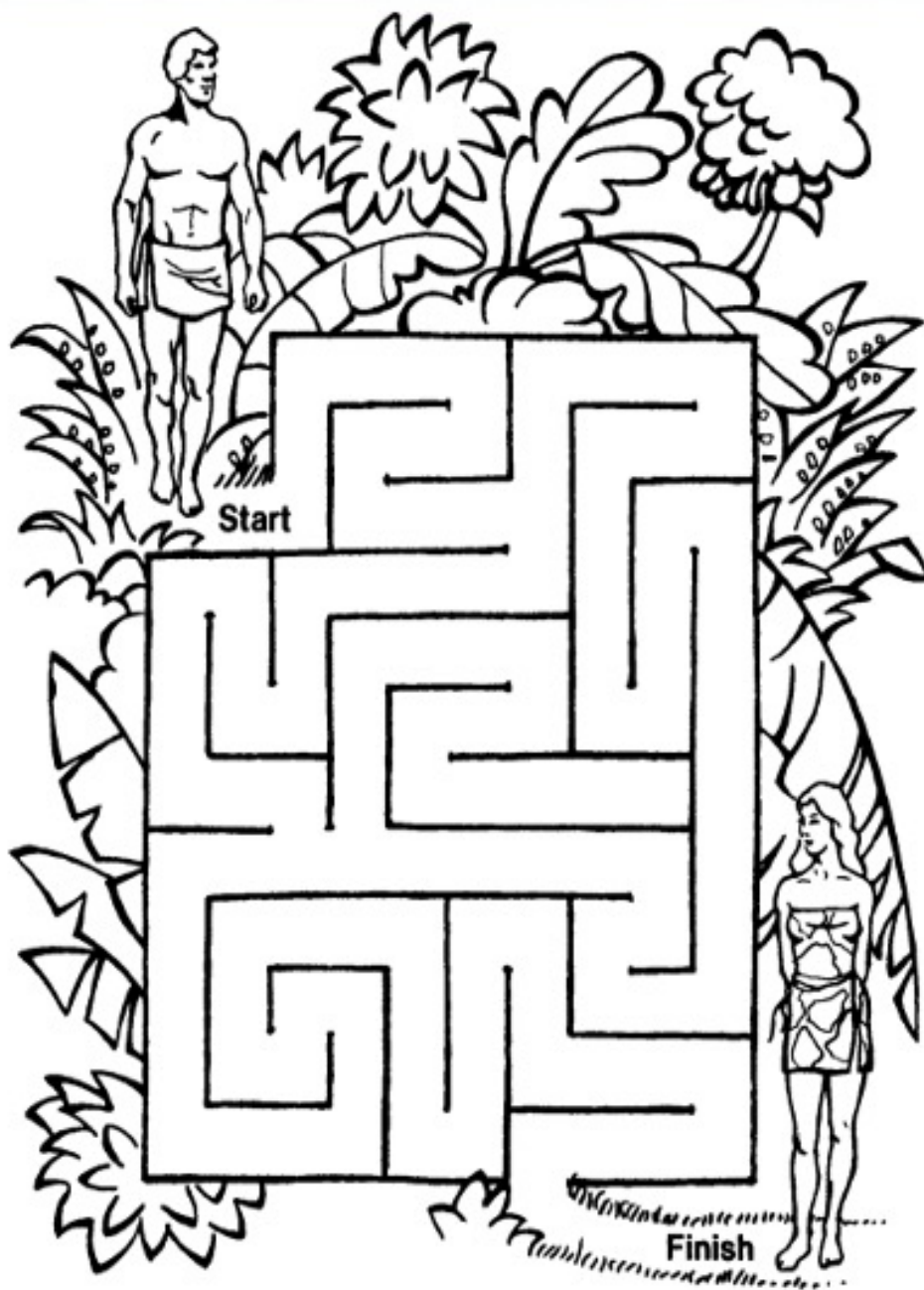
<https://www.ucg.org/members/family-study-guides/gods-plan-shown-by-the-holy-days-a-study-of-the-passover-and-the-days-of-unleavened-bread>

<https://www.ucg.org/members/family-study-guides/making-god-real-the-day-of-pentecost>

<https://www.ucg.org/members/family-study-guides/gods-plan-shown-by-the-holy-days-a-study-of-trumpets-atonement-feast-of-tabernacles-and-the-eighth-day>

Family Activities

- Discuss the importance of taking care of the things given to us.
- Discuss the importance of understanding God's “rules” and obeying them.
- As a family talk about God's Holy Days and what is enjoyable about them. Have each family member share what they know about God's plan of salvation.
- As a family make some unleavened treats (crackers, cookies, etc.). Plan to give some as Holy Day treats to the elderly at church.
- Plant a flower garden or plant seeds in a pot and watch as they grow. Discuss how God has created many things for us to enjoy.



Help Adam find his way through the garden.

Creation Art Activity

Supplies Needed:

- Pictures of nature from magazines
- Large poster board (one piece)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Cutout of man and woman

Prepare in advance:

Find magazine pages that have pictures of trees, flowers, animals, birds, rivers, etc.

Help the children select and cut out pictures from the magazine pages. Use the pictures to make a collage of a beautiful garden on one large sheet of paper. They can take turns putting their pieces, which they cut out, on the large sheet of paper. The teacher can add the finishing touch of a cutout of a man and a woman.

Hymn Sing Activity

As a family, sing this hymn, “Great God Who Made the Universe,” from page 135 of the UCG hymnal. Reflect on the words and what we have learned about in this and previous Creation Series lessons!

1. Great God who made the universe and knows the stars by name,
Who set the sun and moon and all the planets in their frame.
Who made a billion galaxies and scattered them through space
Who made a jewel and called it earth and gave it honored place.
2. He made the day, He made the night, He made the wind that blows,
He made the sky, He made the land, He made the rain and snow,
He made the mountains and the plains, He made the shining seas,
He blessed the earth with greenery and shaded it with trees.
3. All living things on earth He made, yes, ev’ry beast that breathes,
The birds that frolic in the sky, the whales that sport at sea,
All cattle and all creeping things, all creatures great and small,
And then a man and woman with dominion o’er them all.
4. The seventh day He made a time of rest for God and man
That we might ever mindful be of His eternal plan.
Why did God labor mightily to make the earth we see?
To give a cradle to all life and grow His family.
5. When Christ shall come to earth again, and curses shall be done,
And beautiful as earth was made, it shall again become,
But even still more beautiful new heav’n and earth shall be,
And God at last shall dwell with men for all eternity.