

Question 4

How and why did God create us?



Answer

God created us male and female
in his own image to glorify him.

Big Idea

Men and women are created by God, in his image and for his glory.

Aim

To help children understand that they were made in the image of God and for his glory.

Bible Passage

Genesis 1:26–31

Memory Verse

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gen. 1:27)

Virtue

Love





Notes

Leader's Notes

Children are increasingly being exposed to evolutionary theory that is used to discredit the existence of God and the fact that the world was created by God and for his glory. If they are not fully versed in the Christian doctrine of creation, children will find it difficult to stand apart when they face disagreements about the origins of the world and humanity. This lesson will allow the children to engage with the biblical truth concerning the creation of humanity and to understand why God chose to create men and women. This lesson aims to ground children in the knowledge that they were created by a loving God in order to rule over his creation and to show his likeness to the world, while glorifying him with their lives.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- The children may be concerned about engaging with this question in relation to the theory of evolution. Help the children to have confidence in the knowledge that God created people in his image and likeness and for his glory.
- The children will be aware that God created men and women, and some of them may have been exposed to some of the popular debates concerning gender. Be sensitive while clearly showing the children that God created two genders and remind them (from Question 2) that God doesn't make mistakes.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Creator God, thank you for the beauty and design of your world. May my heart be filled with awe and wonder each day as I consider the greatness and power of your creative work. Thank you for creating me in your image and likeness. May I always glorify you.

Please help the children who hear this lesson to have confidence in you, the Creator God. May they trust that your design is good and that your plan for creation is glorious. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Q4 Catechism Recap (DL)
printed and cut up
- Markers
- White paper
- Q4 Human Body Outline (RB), several copies



- Q4 Illustrations of Ancient Near East Statues (RB)
- Play-Doh (4–5 cans)

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10 Catechism Recap

Print out and cut up the answers to Questions 1, 2, and 3 (DL), and lay them upside down on the floor in the middle of the classroom.

Begin the catechism recap by reading Questions 1, 2, and 3 aloud (don't read out the answers!). Tell the children that on the

floor are the words that make up the answers to each question. Have the children turn over the words and see if they can work together to correctly assemble the right words into the right order to answer each question. Practice saying each question and answer together to finish the recap.

5 Introduction to Question 4

Provide the children with paper and markers.

Gather the children into small groups, and ask them to pick one person from their group to pose as a model. Then ask the children to create a Minecraft avatar based on the model.

Introduce Question 4: "How and why did God create us?" Tell the children that the

lesson today is all about the creation of men and women, boys and girls. They have just made an image of their friend by drawing an avatar. Highlight the fact that when God created men and women, he made them in his image, to be like him. Tell the children that this catechism question will help them to understand what that means and why it's important.

10 Activity

Divide the children into groups, and give each group a copy of Q4 Human Body Outline (RB).

Divide the children into groups, and ask them to identify all the ways that humans are different from the rest of God's created beings. Have them fill in the outlines of the human bodies with words or drawings that describe or show the differences.

The aim of this activity is to help the children clearly understand that by being created in

the image of God, humans are distinct from the rest of God's creation.

Conclude this activity by highlighting for the children that God not only made humans different from the rest of creation, but he actually made two different genders—male and female. Tell the children that God intentionally made men and women to live in his creation and that he made them equal but different.





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Teaching Outline

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Introduce the teaching by telling the children that there are many people in the world today who sadly do not believe in God and therefore do not believe that human beings were created but rather they developed or evolved accidentally over a long period of time.

Tell the children that Christians disagree with this belief and confidently believe that human beings were made by God, the Creator of all things.

Ask the children to compare the difference between growing up thinking that you're alive because of a random development on earth, and knowing that you were created by a loving and good God. Ask them if this knowledge makes a difference in how they view their worth and value and purpose in life.

The Bible clearly declares that God made human beings not because he was lonely or because he needed some sort of help on earth, but because he is loving and relational. God did not need people, but he decided to create and use people as part of his plan for his world.

Read Genesis 1:26–31. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Introduce the children to the creation account in Genesis 1–2.

Explain to the children that in the ancient Near East, a king would often set up an image or statue of himself to show his rule over an area. The image would communicate to everyone that the king was in charge of the land. Show the children some pictorial examples from Q4 Illustrations of Ancient Near East Statues (RB).

Genesis 1:26–27 declares that God made human beings in his image and placed them in his world to rule over all other created things. Human beings are not statues, but they are made in the image and likeness of God, to represent him and his rule on earth. Human beings were given authority by God to rule over all the earth.

So human beings were not accidents that just evolved on earth. They were the pinnacle of God's creation—nothing else was created in God's image! At the end of the sixth day God surveyed everything and saw that it was very good.

Ask the children what they think it means to be made in God's image. Ask them to think about all the differences they spotted between human beings and the rest of creation.

Explain to the children that human beings are made in God's likeness. This means that we will be like God in lots of ways—



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in character rather than in appearance. We are God's representatives here on earth, and so we are called to reflect his image in our lives. Some of the ways we might do that are by being:

Creative: God is creative. He instructed Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 to use their creativity to rule over creation.

Communicative: God is a God who speaks, and so we too are made to communicate.

Relational: God is in perfect relationship as the Trinity, and being made in his image means that we are relational too. Ultimately we are made for relationship with God.

Loving: God's purpose in creating human beings was love, and so we are called to live and rule showing God's loving character to the world.

Help the children to see from the Bible passage that God intentionally created men and women. Clearly explain that God did not make everyone the same, nor did

he allow people to choose their gender. He clearly created men and women and boys and girls.

Finish by explaining to the children that their existence is about showing God's existence and about giving him glory.

Ask the children what they think it means to glorify God.

In essence, to glorify God is to acknowledge him as loving Creator, as all-powerful and perfect, and then to live lives of praise to him. We can exalt him in the world. We can show the watching world what he is like. (Tell the children that Question 6 will teach a little more about how to glorify God.)

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 4 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)



Activity



Help the children to create a rap or hand-clapping rhyme for Question 4. Ask them to name some of the key things that

they would like to communicate and then set the words to a beat. This could be done in a large group or in smaller groups.



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Discussion and Question Time

Some of the questions that might arise include:

? Can we really believe that human beings were created by God?

Yes! Millions of people do and have done so throughout history. Help the children to understand that Genesis wasn't meant to be a scientific book describing every detail of how humans were created, but rather it's about the beginning of God's great creation.

? How did God actually make people?

The Bible describes how Adam and Eve were made, and everyone else descended from them. We know that God created everything out of nothing. (This might be a good time to have them turn in their Bibles to Hebrews 11:3 and read it aloud.) After he created the earth, he created Adam from the dust of the earth, breathing life into his nostrils (Gen. 2:7, 21–22).

? What about the theory of evolution?

The theory of evolution—that we are here by accident rather than created—is often taught as fact, but it is just a theory. Tell the children that there are many Christians who are scientists who believe God created us out of nothing.

Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this catechism question and answer affects them personally.

- How will they reflect God's image in his world?
- Has sin affected their ability to image God?
- What happens when they decide not to glorify God?
- How might they explain to a friend who thinks we are here by accident that they believe God created human beings, and that they have a purpose in his plan for his world?



Virtue Vision



Love

Remind the children that God created out of love, and to be his image bearers in the world we should be loving too.

Help the children to consider what godly love looks like. Does it mean loving only the people they like or who like them? Does it mean loving only people who act like them

and look like them? Or does loving the way God loves mean something much more?

Discuss with the children what it would look like if they were always concerned to show God's love to siblings and parents at home and to classmates and friends at school.

Ask each child to think of one person in their life that they want to love well.



Memory Activity

Divide the children into groups and ask each group to create a word of the memory verse or catechism answer in Play-Doh.

Place each word of the verse or catechism answer on a long flat surface. Have the

children say the memory verse, and then gradually ball up the Play-Doh to remove words. See which of the children can remember the whole memory verse and recite it to the group.



Closing Prayer Time

Conclude the lesson by inviting several of the children to give thanks to God for creating them and to ask that God might help them to glorify him. Conclude by asking God that as the children grow in

understanding that they are immeasurably precious in the eyes of the Lord, he might help them show love more and more in his image!