



God Creates Adam and Eve

5

Key Themes

- God created man in His image.
- God's Word is always our starting point.

Key Passages

- Genesis 2:4–25; 1 Corinthians 11:7–9, 15:47–48;
1 Timothy 2:13; Mark 10:1–9

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Compare the biblical view of the origin of man to the evolutionary view.
- Describe the biblical view of marriage.
- Identify the connection between the accounts of creation in Genesis 1 and 2.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Write on the board, “How does evolution undermine the doctrine of marriage?”
Have students bookmark Genesis 2:4, Mark 10:1, 1 Corinthians 11:7, 1 Corinthians 15:47, and 1 Timothy 2:13 in their Bibles.



Studying God's Word

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This lesson looks at the more detailed account of the creation of Adam and Eve in chapter two of Genesis. The creation of man will be contrasted with the evolutionary view. We will also see that God's design for marriage is one man and one woman for life.

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Print one God Creates Adam and Eve answer key for your use.
- Go Before the Throne.



Two Creation Accounts?

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Students will analyze claims leveled by skeptics against the two accounts of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 and suggest explanations for apparent contradictions and problems.

- Student Guides
- Pencils



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare for this lesson, read and meditate on the following Scripture passages: Genesis 1:26–31, 2:4–24; Mark 10:6–9.

Genesis 1:26 records the creation of the first living human—the crowning point and finishing touch of God’s creation. Man, both male and female, were brought to life in the midst of all the good things God had created. Imagine the awesomeness and comfort in the beauty they saw. And Adam would soon know that God’s intention was for him to have dominion over it all.

The creation of Adam and Eve was much different from anything else God created. We know that God commanded everything into existence, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3); “Let there be a firmament” (Genesis 1:6); “Let the dry land appear” (Genesis 1:9); “Let the earth bring forth grass” (Genesis 1:11); and so on. But Scripture tells us that man is unique. This part of God’s creation was not commanded into existence as all the others were, but was lovingly overseen by the Triune God, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (Genesis 1:26). God’s sovereign plan demanded that this part of His creation be comprised of soul and spirit—created in His image. This creature of God’s would walk with Him, talk with Him, and one day be redeemed by Him.

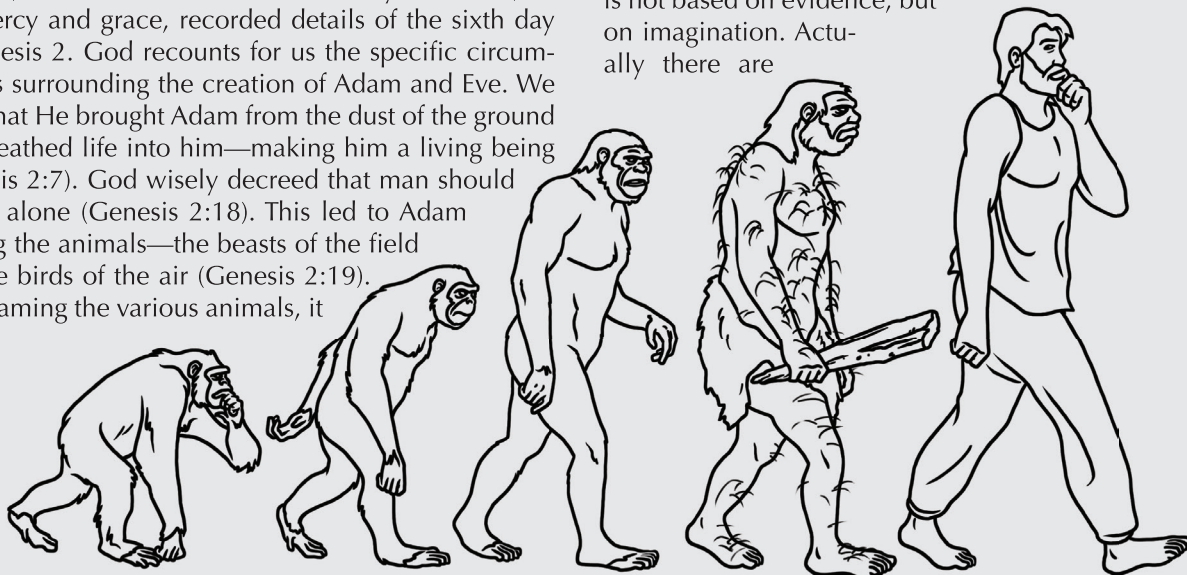
As we move to Genesis 2, we are introduced to more of the history of the Creation Week: “This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created . . .” (Genesis 2:4). Claiming that the Bible cannot be trusted, many suggest that Genesis 2 contradicts Genesis 1. However, this is not a different creation account, but a detailed account of Day Six. God, in His mercy and grace, recorded details of the sixth day in Genesis 2. God recounts for us the specific circumstances surrounding the creation of Adam and Eve. We learn that He brought Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him—making him a living being (Genesis 2:7). God wisely decreed that man should not be alone (Genesis 2:18). This led to Adam naming the animals—the beasts of the field and the birds of the air (Genesis 2:19). After naming the various animals, it

was clear there was no helper comparable to him (Genesis 2:20). But God had a solution. He formed Eve from Adam’s side, bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, to walk with him as a suitable, comparable helper (Genesis 2:21–23). Creating Eve for Adam, God instituted the sacred covenant of marriage, establishing that a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife so that the two shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24). One man for one woman was God’s plan for marriage from the beginning (Mark 10:6–9).

This exclusive revelation is provided for our edification from our Creator God, given to Moses through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit—that we would know Him and His omnipotence. What a privilege that He would share details that only He could know with us! But in order to appreciate the blessing of God’s Word, we must have faith and believe it is our final authority—our only foundation and our starting point to discern truth from error. He tells us, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (Hebrews 11:3).

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

We know that the truth of God’s creation and the unique way He made Adam and Eve is in direct opposition to the idea of evolution. The image below is one used quite frequently to illustrate the “science” behind evolution—presenting as fact the story of human evolution from ape-like creatures over the past several million years. But we can’t believe everything we see and despite its iconic status and widespread use, this image is not based on evidence, but on imagination. Actually there are



very few fossil remains of men or apes (about 95 percent of the known fossils are marine invertebrates like clams, snails, squid, starfish, worms, corals, etc.)

In fact, many of the fossils of so-called human ancestors consist of little more than fragments of bone, yet they are touted by the science journals and media as “proof” of human evolution. Upon closer examination, all of these finds are either true apes or true humans—not something in between. The chart below presents alleged human relatives and how creation scientists might classify them:

Alleged Human Relative	Creationist Classification
<i>Australopithecus afarensis</i> (such as “Lucy”)	extinct ape
<i>Australopithecus africanus</i>	extinct ape
<i>Australopithecus boisei</i>	extinct ape
<i>Australopithecus robustus</i>	extinct ape
<i>Pan troglodytes</i> and <i>Pan paniscus</i> (chimpanzee)	living ape
<i>Gorilla gorilla</i> and <i>Gorilla beringei</i> (gorilla)	living ape
<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i> and <i>Pongo abelii</i> (orangutan)	living ape
Ramapithecus	extinct ape (extinct orangutan)
<i>Homo habilis</i>	false category that mixes some human and some ape fossils
<i>Homo floresiensis</i> (the “hobbit”)	human (dwarf, pygmy)
<i>Homo ergaster</i>	human
<i>Homo erectus</i> (e.g., “Peking man” and “Java man”)	human
<i>Homo neanderthalensis</i> (Neanderthals)	human
Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i>	human
Modern <i>Homo sapiens</i>	human

Our culture is flooded with evolutionary propaganda. However, when we begin with God’s Word as our authority and determine to see the evidence through biblical glasses we will have no trouble recognizing the truth: we were directly created by God in His image to have a relationship with Him.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The moral implications of the evolutionary view that man is merely an animal evolved from an ape are increasingly evident in our culture today. For example,

many contend that because man is an ape, the ape-like or “primal” urges that we have for violence and sexuality can be excused because of our evolutionary history. Permeating every part of our culture, the idea of evolution has made many in our society calloused to social issues like abortion, racism, euthanasia, and genetic engineering. After all, if man is just an animal, a product of random, cosmic accidents, can an absolute moral code even exist? If an absolute moral code does exist, where did it come from? In an evolutionary society, morality is what the majority decides it to be or whatever makes you feel good. Consequently, each person determines his or her own idea of right and wrong. But this thinking is inconsistent and absolute morality cannot be the result of subjective personal choices. We can’t all be right and all be wrong. This line of thinking promotes the “might makes right” attitude. The one with the most strength or power will eventually overcome the others in the struggle for survival.

As our society drifts further and further from the authority of God’s Word, we will continue to see a decline in moral integrity. If we discount the words of God in the very first book—Genesis—how can we stand on any of it? If we accept that man is an animal and not a created, living being made in the image of God, we won’t consider Him worthy of our respect and love. On the other hand, as believers who preach the gospel and stand firmly on God’s Word, boldly proclaiming it as our foundation for understanding right and wrong, we can affect a change in individuals that just may bring our society back to a Christian worldview.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Sovereign God, Creator of all things, grant me understanding about all the aspects of this lesson, so that I may teach others for the benefit of your kingdom. Help me to realize the gravity of instructing immortal souls. Bless each of the students committed to my care. And Lord, bless their parents. Help them to bring up their students in the ways of the Lord so they will come to love your Word, believe it, trust it for all truth, and through it come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Review

We have been studying the biblical account of the creation of the universe for a few weeks now. We have taken a big overview and then zoomed in on a few specific aspects. We have already mentioned the creation of the plants and animals in detail and the distinct creation of man, but we are going to continue looking at the creation of man today.

Of all of God's creation, He has chosen to communicate and have a relationship only with man. God created man in His image and gave him dominion over all of the earthly creation. And He called man to be a steward of those resources.



➤ Write on the board, "How does evolution undermine the doctrine of marriage?"

➤ Have students bookmark Genesis 2:4, Mark 10:1, 1 Corinthians 11:7, 1 Corinthians 15:47, and 1 Timothy 2:13 in their Bibles.

Genesis 2:4–25

➤ Reading many parallel passages of Scripture helps us to draw out details and have a more complete understanding of God's Word.



Studying God's Word

Our passage today comes from Genesis 2 where God gives us a more comprehensive look at the creation of the man and the woman. Our goal today is to distinguish between the evolutionary and biblical views of man and to look at the implications this has for the doctrine of marriage.

READ THE WORD

Before you begin to teach, pass out pencils to each student.

We will be filling in the blanks in your workbooks as the class continues. Don't fill in anything right now. Wait until we get to it—even if you think you know the answers now. OK?

Let's read Genesis 2:4–25 together and then look closely at the text to help us understand God's special creation of man and woman. *Have someone read the passage aloud, possibly splitting the passage at verse 15 for two readers.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.

- ? **What type of literature is this passage?** *It is historical narrative, just as verse 4 states.*
- ? **Who are the characters in this account?** **There are three of them.** *God, Adam, and Eve.*
- ? **What point in history is this passage describing?** *The setting is the Creation Week stretching from Day Three when God had not yet created plants (verse 5) to Day Six when God created man (verse 7).*

- ? **How was the first man created? What did God do?** *He was formed from dust of the ground and God breathed life into his nostrils.*
- ? **How did the garden come to be and what was in it?** *God planted the garden and placed the man in it along with trees, including the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
- ? **What was the man's role in the garden?** *To tend and keep it.*
- ? **What command did God give the man?** *That he can eat of every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The penalty for breaking that command was death.*
- ? **What did God call "not good"?** *That the man is alone.*
- ? **Notice that verse 19 is the first time the man is called Adam. What role did Adam fulfill with respect to the animals?** *He named them.*
- ? **Which animals did Adam name?** *Cattle, birds of the air, and the beasts of the field.*
- ? **What did Adam not find among the animals?** *A helper comparable to him.*
- ? **In verse 21, what did God cause?** *A deep sleep to fall on Adam.*
- ? **Then what did God do?** *Took one of Adam's ribs.*
- ? **And what was the last thing God did in Genesis 2:21?** *Closed Adam's flesh back up.*
- ? **When God presented the woman to Adam, how did he respond?** *He recognized that she was a part of him and called her "Woman" because she was taken out of man.*

Before we move on, I want you to stop. Think about this for a minute. The God of the universe reached down to earth, took some dirt, formed it into the shape of a man, and blew life into that body. Then He opened that body up, took out a rib, and made a woman—a helper for the man. I find that completely amazing!

This is the true account of God creating the first man and woman, based on God's Word—the history book of the universe. Repeat this statement—it is an answer on the worksheet.

- ? **What pattern is described in verse 24?** *Just as Adam and the Woman were joined together, having come from one flesh, so is a man joined to his wife as one flesh in marriage.*
- ? **How does verse 25 contrast with our understanding of nakedness today?** *They were both naked and not ashamed—today nakedness is a mark of shame that reminds us of sin.*

Choose a partner, and work together to answer the first 13 questions in your workbooks. Allow students a few minutes to work, then go over the answers with the entire class. Use the God Creates Adam and Eve answer key to assist them in filling out the blanks.

- ? **What does the passage tell us about God?** *We see that God is the Creator of everything and that He loves His creation. Specifically, God wanted Adam to have a helper and demonstrated His love in providing that helper for him. Refer to love on the Attributes of God poster.*

LOVE

Discover the Truth

Now that we have asked questions about the text, let's continue to look at the importance of this passage in understanding who man is and how this runs contrary to an evolutionary view of man.

We love God's Word because it is from God! And we know that all of God's Word is true. But it is especially important to be aware of this particular account because the world wants us to believe that the creation of people was very different from what the Bible tells us.

- ? What do you hear from the world—TV, movies, museums—about the creation of man? *Allow for answers. Evolution.*

We all hear a lot about evolution. That man evolved from some slime—even just one tiny cell—and then over millions of years we became what we are today. You will hear this on TV, at school, read it in books, see it at museums . . . but it is not what God's Word says.

- ? What are some of the problems you see in trying to reconcile the idea of evolution with what we just read in Genesis 2? *Discuss various answers including the idea that man was created from the dust, not from another animal, that the woman was created from the man and did not evolve alongside him.*

Remember that it is always a good practice to look to other passages of Scripture to make sure that we understand a specific text properly. Let's look at a few passages from the New Testament that relate to this topic.

1 Corinthians 11:7–9

- ? Someone read 1 Corinthians 11:7–9 for us. What does this passage tell us about the creation of the man and woman? *The woman was created from man and for man.*

1 Corinthians 15:47–48

- ? Turn to 1 Corinthians 15 and look at verses 47–48. What do we learn there? *Adam was the first man and was made from dust.*

1 Timothy 2:13

- ? And what about 1 Timothy 2:13? What does it confirm about Genesis 2? *Adam was formed before Eve.*

Some might suggest that Genesis 2 can be understood as a type of metaphor or analogy and that it should not be interpreted in a literal sense. However, if we reinterpret this Old Testament passage, we must also reinterpret these New Testament passages to be consistent. Doing so has a major impact on our understanding of the doctrine of the roles of men and women in marriage, something that we will look at more closely in a few minutes.

Adam and Eve were created by special, supernatural acts of God, not by an evolutionary process. This is another example of God's omnipotence and authority over His creation.

Some have suggested that God breathed the spirit into an early, spiritless hominid and that is the point that man came to be in the image of God. One very popular writer suggests that God took two of these hominids that had evolved, gave them amnesia of their former animal life, and then they became Adam and Eve.

Even more alarming are those who have accepted the evolutionary view to such an extent that they teach that Adam and Eve didn't even have to be real people. These ideas undermine the authority of God's Word.

Fossils of hominids like "Lucy" (*Australopithecus afarensis*) and others are simply extinct apes. Despite their scientific classifications, other remains of individuals like the Neanderthals (*Homo neanderthalensis*) and the "hobbit" skeletons from Asia (*Homo floresiensis*) are representative of the variety within the human (*Homo sapiens*) population. Starting from a biblical perspective makes it clear that there is no changing of an ape-like creature into a human. The record of Genesis 1 and 2 makes that abundantly clear.

If we fail to place God's Word as the authority over man's opinions, we will fall into the trap of believing these arguments that run counter to God's description of His creation.



READ THE WORD

I mentioned a few minutes ago that we were going to take a closer look at marriage. We are going to fast forward about 4,000 years to the time when Jesus was ministering to people on the earth. Turn to Mark 10 and let's read verses 1–9 together. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

Mark 10:1–9

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? **Who were interacting in this passage?** *Jesus was interacting with the Pharisees who had asked him a question about marriage as He was teaching a multitude of people.*
- ? **What did the Pharisees want to know?** *They were looking for Jesus's understanding of divorce.*
- ? **Was divorce allowed according to Moses?** *Yes.*
- ? **Why was divorce allowed?** *It was allowed because of the hardness of men's hearts.*
- ? **Is divorce part of God's original plan for His creation?** *No, the man and woman were to be joined as one flesh and not to be separated.*
- ? **What passages were quoted by Jesus?** *Verses 6 is quoting Genesis 1:27 and verses 7 and 8 are quoting Genesis 2:24.*

➤ Matthew 19:1–9 relates the same account.

- ? What does verse 6 tell us about the timing of the creation of the male and female? *They were created "at the beginning of the creation."*
- ? Would we be justified in calling the union of Adam and Eve the first marriage? *Yes, it is the model for marriage according to Jesus. God presented the woman to Adam, and Jesus said, "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

Get with your partner again, and work together to answer the rest of the questions on the worksheet. *Allow students a few minutes to work, then go over the answers with the entire class.*

Discover the Truth

- ? If we were to write a biblical definition for marriage based on this passage, what criteria would it include? *One man united to one woman for life is the biblical definition of marriage.*
- ? How has society tried to change this definition over the millennia? *Beginning early in history, Lamech had multiple wives (Genesis 4:19), and that practice has continued throughout history. There have also been other perversions of marriage including homosexuality. It is also important to remember that all sex outside of marriage is a perversion of God's intent for human sexuality.*

All of these perversions are outside of the way God created the world to function—all are sin in the eyes of a holy God. We often tend to focus on homosexuality as especially immoral, but passages like Galatians 5:19–21 and 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 put that sin right alongside others including fornication (sex outside of marriage), adultery, drunkenness, covetousness, and selfishness.

If humans evolved from animals, then there is really no reason that marriage should be restricted to one man and one woman. It is only because of what God has revealed to us in Scripture that we can claim with authority that marriage is one man with one woman for life.

Another important aspect of this passage comes as Jesus described Adam and Eve as being married "from the beginning of the creation." He offered a powerful refutation of old-earth views of mankind and the earth. His statement makes no sense if Adam and Eve were only present 4.5 billion years after the beginning of creation. This passage indicates that Christ understood that Adam and Eve were present from the beginning.





Two Creation Accounts?

MATERIALS

- Student Guides
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Have the students work in small groups to answer the challenges presented and then discuss the answers.

If time is short, divide the class into two groups and assign one of the challenges to each group and then have them share their explanations with one another. Or simply go over the answers with them in class.

Have any of you ever heard someone claim that the accounts of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 contradict one another? Allow for responses.

That is a common claim from skeptics of the Bible's truthfulness. In your workbooks you will see two challenges from skeptics. Use your Bibles, especially Genesis 1 and 2, to come up with reasonable explanations for these apparent problems, and we will discuss them in a few minutes.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Challenge 1: Genesis 1 says that the land animals were created before mankind, but Genesis 2:19 says God formed the animals and brought them to Adam, who had already been created, and then formed Eve later. (Hint: the ESV, NIV, and Tyndale translate the passage "God *had* formed every beast.")

In general, Genesis 1 is a chronological description of the Creation Week, and

Genesis 2 is a close-up on the events of Day Six. So Genesis 2, starting at verse 4, is actually the beginning of a detailed history of Adam's family, which extends through chapter 4.

? **How did you answer the first challenge?** 2:19 is just looking back to earlier in Day Six when God had formed the animals and was presenting them before Adam to be named—there is no contradiction.

Challenge 2: Adam could not have named millions of species of animals in part of one day.

? **How could you respond to the second challenge?** Looking carefully at the text, Adam did not name every species of animal on the planet. The skeptic is assuming that there were the same number of species and kinds of animals in Adam's day. Genesis 2:20 says that Adam named the cattle, the birds of the air, and the beast of the field, not all animals on the planet, so the task is much smaller than the skeptic mistakenly suggests. Also, Adam would have simply named the kinds of animals, not every individual animal or variety within the kinds like we have today.

How refreshing to realize that a little thought applied to such challenges can clear up any confusion. There will always be challenges from both those who are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness and those who are sincerely seeking to understand what the Bible teaches, but answering such challenges using Scripture as the authority demonstrates our trust in God's Word and its truthfulness.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

To summarize, we have looked at God's intimate involvement in the creation of Adam and the woman (she wouldn't be known as Eve until after the Fall). Despite the claims of skeptics, there are not conflicting accounts of the Creation Week in Genesis 1 and 2. Rather, Genesis 2 fills in some of the details of the events of Day Six, and the significance of the order of those events is clear from other passages of Scripture that point to these events.

Contrary to the evolutionary view of the origin of man, God made man in His image and specially created man and woman to complete one another as one flesh. The woman was a suitable helper for the man, having been formed from his side by a loving Creator. People have been corrupting that God-given order since the entrance of sin into the world.

The remedy for sin has been in place before the foundation of the world, and even those who are trapped in sins of sexuality—such as fornication, adultery, and homosexuality—can come to Christ and receive the forgiveness He purchased on the Cross. God's loving care is demonstrated in both the creation of man and woman, and in the redemption of mankind. These connections remind us of the crucial importance of Genesis as the foundational book of the Bible.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

- ? **What forms of "marriage" do we see in society today, and what is the biblical error in those forms of relationships?** *In the West, we see homosexual "marriage" being legalized, and polygamous relationships are not being prosecuted despite their illegal status in most areas. Divorce is very common, even among professed Christians. All of these are outside of the biblical prescription of one man with one woman for life.*
- ? **How do we respond to people we know who are living in relationships that are sinful (e.g., adultery, fornication, homosexuality)?** *We need to lovingly show them their sin by looking to God's plan for marriage and demonstrating their need for repentance. We have been saved from our sin and we can share that hope with them. Christ's work is sufficient to deliver them from any sins they have committed. God's mercy is available to all.*
- ? **Many people, Christians included, seek to make an argument for biblical marriage based on statistics of "healthy and happy" families. Is this an adequate argument to make?** *No, the surveys can be twisted and stretched to show*

about anything the researchers want to show. If we simply use dueling surveys, we will never change the hearts and minds of people. To change hearts and minds requires the truth of God's Word—we must make our arguments based on the truth of Scripture first. It is the gospel message that is the power of God for salvation, not statistical analysis.

- ? **When discussing the disappearance of marriage in the West, should we say that we want a return to traditional marriage or biblical marriage?** *If all we seek is a return to tradition, we have failed to ground our thinking on God's Word. Referring to biblical marriage places the authority on God's Word rather than tradition or history of man.*
- ? **Genesis 1 and 2 make it perfectly clear that Adam and Eve were specially created by God, not evolved from animal precursors. How can you help Christians who believe in the evolution of mankind to see the error in that thinking?** *Open the Bible and show the clear description of the creation of the man from dust and the woman from his rib. To accept evolution, you must reject that this is a clear explanation of how God made mankind, and you must turn Genesis 1–2 into an allegory or a fictional account.*
- ? **Would you do anything differently in the previous situation if you were speaking to a skeptic instead of a Christian?** *We should not be afraid to open the Bible and proclaim the truth of God's Word. The process is the same. We can still discuss the evidences and how the various fossil hominids are not scientifically or biblically consistent explanations, but we cannot neglect using God's Word as we proclaim the truth.*
- ? **Abortion and euthanasia are controversial topics in the world we live in. How does the truth from Genesis 1 and 2 help us have an answer for how to deal with these situations?** *Because every person is made in the image of God, every life has value. We cannot let our thinking be based on man's ideas of value for society or that man is just a highly evolved animal that has no special value. Looking to God's Word, we rightly understand issues like these.*
- ? **If you ever hear from a skeptic that Genesis 1 and 2 contradict one another, how can you respond to that claim?** *Genesis 2 is a close-up on the creation of Adam and Eve, not a separate account that contradicts the first.*



MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for His care in creating mankind.
- Praise God that we can reflect a small part of His character to those around us.
- Ask God for wisdom and boldness in proclaiming the truths of His Word.

