Genesis

Icebreaker—Egg, Chicken, Lobster, T-Rex

Turn to Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth[b] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

27 So God created humans[c] in his image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

What does it mean when God says, “Let us make humankind in our image?”

How are we made in the image of God? What characteristics of human beings are like God?

Now read Genesis 1:28-2:4

**24**And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. **25**God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

**26**Then God said, “Let us make humans[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A24-2%3A8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26a)] in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A24-2%3A8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26b)] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

**27**So God created humans[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A24-2%3A8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-27c)] in his image,  
    in the image of God he created them;[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A24-2%3A8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-27d)]  
    male and female he created them.

**28**God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” **29**God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. **30**And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. **31**God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**2**Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. **2**On the sixth[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A24-2%3A8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-33e)] day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. **3**So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

**4**These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A24-2%3A8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-35f)] God made the earth and the heavens, **5**when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, **6**but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— **7**then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A24-2%3A8&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-38g)] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. **8**And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

How do you interact with nature?

In what ways are do you separate yourself from nature sometimes? Why?

If God has given us the world, what are our responsibilities?

How have humans used their dominion (verse 1:28) over the earth? If God made it good, have we done a good job or a bad job with it?

Video

Big Questions

How can any stuff in the Bible possibly be true?

How do I know when to trust the Bible and when to trust science?

A lot of people in Genesis seem kind of messed up. So why are they in Bible stories?

In the Beginning

SCIENCE—concerns itself with things that can be tested and counted, proved and concluded and contained.

The BIBLE concerns itself with a very different set of questions. The Bible uses stories to explore questions. What is an example of a question that can not be answered by science?

Both science and the Bible help us discover answers about the world, how it works, and why it’s such an awesome place.

What kind of questions is science good at asking? What sorts of things can you learn through the scientific method of testing?

What kind of things does the Bible teach us?

Got Questions? So does the Bible.

Questions are an important part of the Bible…asking questions helps us grow as Christians.

What is your favorite question word? Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? How much? Which kind?

What sorts of questions do you have about the Bible?

Genesis invites its readers into an epic story of messy and marvelous life and offers responses to questions like “who?” and “why?”—questions science has a hard time answering.

Who is responsible for all this?

As creator, God is responsible for the foundation and sustaining of the whole world. Created in God’s image, humankind has a special responsibility, place, and power in creation. For better or worse, this includes the power to make mistakes.

Have you ever hurt someone you cared about so badly that you swore never to do it again?

What mistakes have you made that hurt creation? What other mistakes have we made as a larger community?

Family

Who is your family? Use a piece of paper and your favorite writing instruments to make a representation of your family. Could be a picture, a poem, some other form of writing.

Family can me a of different things. Who else do you consider family?

In the middle of Genesis, God turns his attention toward an old couple—Abraham and Sarah—who do not have children. He promises that they will have descendants as numerous as the skies. Do you remember what struggles Abraham and Sarah face in establishing their family? (Skim through the Book of Genesis for help).

Make paper squares. Write the letters that make up the names of your family. For example, B, R, A, D for Pastor Brad and L, I, N, D, A for his mom. Put the letters in the center of the table. Play Godly Anagram. Use the letters to spell out attributes or qualities of God.