

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – January 13, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith **Topic:** God's Purpose in Creation

Main Text: Genesis 1:26-31; Acts 17:26-28

Key verse: Acts 17:27: “...so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each of us”

INTRODUCTION: As adherents of the Christian faith, we understand that our God is the Creator of the world (Heb 11:3) and that He does everything with a purpose. As one pastor put it, that puts us in a “super minority”. Few books of the Bible have been attacked and ridiculed as much as Genesis, the book of beginnings, and the Biblical account of creation is probably the most often targeted element. If we are to have a firm foundation as disciples of Christ we must have a sound, mature understanding of what the Bible says about creation, our place in it, and God's purpose for us His image bearers (Gen 1:7; 9:6). Having created the earth's environment (Gen 1:2-23), God on the sixth day called forth creatures of every kind (Gen 1:24-25). Then “God said, let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”. There was something special about man (male and female). In Genesis 2:7, we are told that God “formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”.

1. **Read Genesis 1:3-5 and 26-31; (a) What differences to you notice in the account of creation in the two sets of verses? (b) Read Genesis 1:2, 26, Isa 40:12-13, Jn 1:3, 1 Cor 8:6, Col 1:15-17 What do these passages tell us about God and creation (c) Read Genesis 1:26 -27 2:7, 5:1-2; What do you think it means to be made in God's image?**

Some have suggested that God made mankind to satisfy His need for relationship, but the Bible clearly teaches that God is self-existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and lacking nothing. It is important that, as Christians, we study the character and attributes of God to avoid being misled by even well-meaning “explanations”. Creation is not the result of some lack or need on the part of God. He is the source of all life (Ps 36:9; Jn 5:26), the God of all fullness who created all things and works in all things for His good pleasure and glory (see Isa 43:7, Ro 11:36; Rev 4:11). Out of His fullness and abundance, God created us in love to reflect His image and rule over His creation under His authority (Gen 1:28).

2. **(a) Read Genesis 9:6, James 3:9 What are some of the implications of men and women being made in God's image? (b) Read Gen 1:28, Ps 8:4-8 All living things were commanded to reproduce after their kind, but man was also given a mandate to “rule” and “subdue” creation. Discuss what that means for us as Christians today. How do you think God wants you to carry out this mandate in your home, work, community, and church?**

All creation is subject to and accountable to God the Creator and Sovereign. God made all people from one blood (Acts 17:26) and gives them the breath that keeps them alive. Yet, most of the world is in rebellion to God and refuses to acknowledge Him and give Him the honour due His name.

3. **(a) Read Acts 17:26-28 Paul was speaking to the most educated and, in their eyes, civilized people in the world at that time. What lessons can we draw from Paul's boldness in declaring the Biblical truth about creation to help us deal with the questions, skepticism, and opposition we face as followers of the one true God today?**

Prayer: *Lord God, You have made the heavens and the earth by your great power. Nothing is too difficult for You. You created us in Your image to reflect Your glory and You have redeemed us by the blood of Christ our Lord to honour You by doing the good works You prepared for us to do. O Lord grant us grace, wisdom, discernment, and boldness to be Your faithful image bearers in every sphere of influence You have placed us. Amen*

