

# PREVIEW GUIDE

ADULT PREVIEW GUIDE  
FALL 2021



# ADULT PREVIEW GUIDE

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### CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@God's Word for Life



@GWFLife



# GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE OVERVIEW

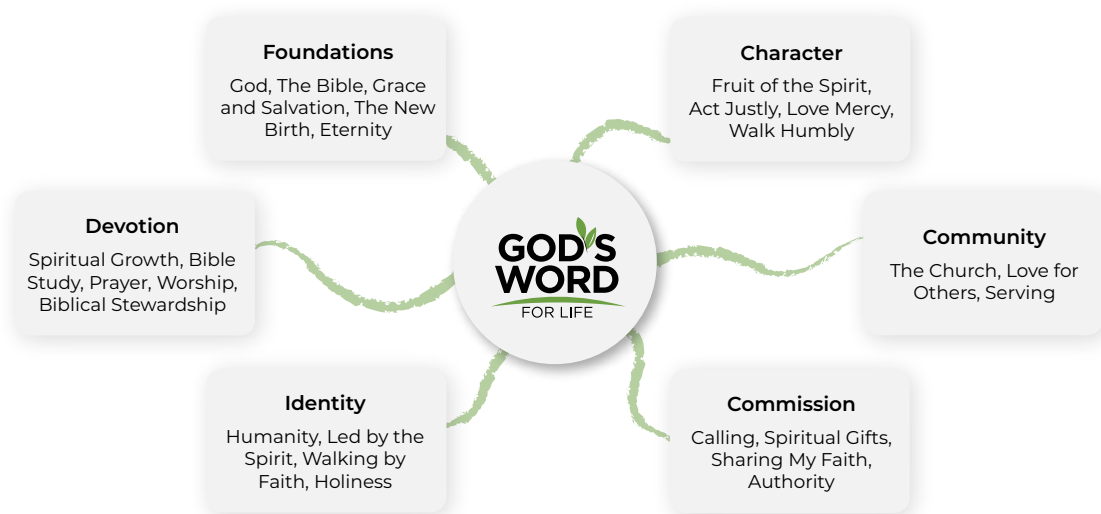
## Create a Culture of Daily Discipleship

### A Discipleship Program for Your Church and Home

For decades we've sung to our children "Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day" and coached our adults and youth to make time for prayer and Bible study at home. But what have we done as a church to systematically equip believers of all ages to do that? God's Word for Life is more than just curriculum. It is a revolutionary new discipleship program that moves the Apostolic approach to prayer, worship, and Bible study beyond the walls of the church and into every home for daily spiritual growth.

















### Six Roots of Apostolic Discipleship

In response to the pressing need to disciple believers of every age, God's Word for Life was designed to answer the question: "How do we instill Apostolic truth in a person to form a disciple—a lifelong Apostolic?" From that discussion, the team that created Elements and the Apostolic Study Bible created an immersive home and church partnership designed to instill in every believer six roots of Apostolic discipleship.





# SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

	YEAR 1 (Fall 2021 – Summer 2022)	YEAR 2 (Fall 2022 – Summer 2023)	YEAR 3 (Fall 2023 – Summer 2024)	YEAR 4 (Fall 2024 – Summer 2025)
FALL	 <b>Genesis – Creation</b>  <b>Preparing the Way for the Messiah</b>  <b>Psalms</b> (Christian Living)	 <b>Moses</b>  <b>Jesus’ Kingship</b>  <b>Wisdom</b>	 <b>David and Solomon</b>  <b>Jesus Responds to Faith</b>  <b>Parables of Jesus</b>	 <b>Salvation in Acts</b>  <b>Jesus, Our Savior</b>  <b>Romans</b>
WINTER	 <b>Oneness of God</b>  <b>Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob</b>  <b>Jesus’ Ministry Begins</b>	 <b>The Spirit</b>  <b>Joshua</b>  <b>Jesus’ Kingdom: Others and Service</b>	 <b>Holiness</b>  <b>God Is Faithful</b>  <b>The Bread of Life</b>	 <b>The Mighty God in Christ</b>  <b>Miracles</b>  <b>Jesus, Our Sacrifice</b>
SPRING	 <b>Psalms</b> (Spiritual Disciplines)  <b>Joseph</b>  <b>New Birth</b>	 <b>Parables of Jesus</b>  <b>Metaphors for Salvation</b>  <b>Judges</b>	 <b>John</b>  <b>Worshiping Our Sovereign God</b>  <b>Elijah and Elisha</b>	 <b>Epistles</b>  <b>Grace</b>  <b>Paul</b>
SUMMER	 <b>Jesus Is Just to Outsiders</b>  <b>Psalms</b> (God Is Our Refuge and Healer of Hurts)  <b>God’s Word</b>	 <b>Jesus Is Love</b>  <b>Sermon on the Mount</b>  <b>The Church</b>	 <b>Jesus Teaches Us to Pray</b>  <b>John – I AM Sayings</b>  <b>Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit</b>	 <b>Jesus Ministers through Us</b>  <b>Faith Passages</b>  <b>Last Things</b>



Foundations



Devotion



Identity



Character



Community

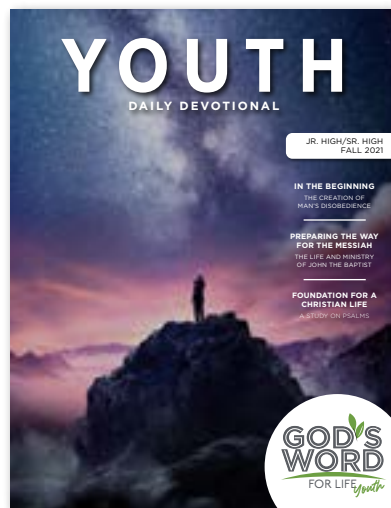
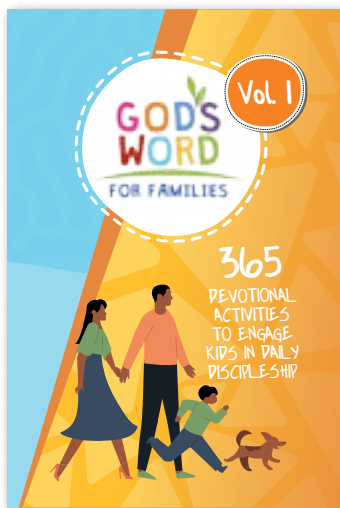


Commission

## Whole-Church Alignment

All ages of a church can study the same Bible passage each week with God’s Word for Life. This structure equips families to have a unified conversation at home about Scripture, and it enables church leaders to know what’s being taught in all groups and classes for clear focus.

# DAILY DEVOTIONALS



## Creates a Strategic Partnership between the Home and Church

With daily devotionals for every age level, God's Word for Life is designed to move spiritual growth and Bible learning beyond a one-hour session on Sunday. Student resources are engineered for interaction with God's Word every single day at home, making Sunday class time a reinforcement of what happens all week long.

## A Whole-Church Curriculum

God's Word for Life is a discipleship program intended to lead the entire church from toddlers to adults into God's presence and His Word for lifelong transformation. The adult, youth, and children's levels, as well as the God's Word for Families devotional, all start from the same biblical text, but then have different age-appropriate applications. Daily devotionals for every age level equip the church to study Scripture daily. If your entire church has not bought into the God's Word for Life program, each level of curriculum can still be used on its own.



# MYGROWTH TOOLKIT

**Your church's spiritual growth doesn't have to be a shot in the dark.**

## **A digital solution to manage groups, track growth, and train teachers.**

Our churches see the need for software to organize our services, finances, and membership information. Yet in our teaching ministry, many leaders are still working off crude paper records, if any records at all. My Growth Toolkit offers a full array of resources to help lead your groups effectively including:



### **Group Management**

- Create and Save Group Member Records
- Record Notes that Follow Member from Class-to-Class
- Track and Report Group Attendance, Offering, Guests, and More



### **Assessments**

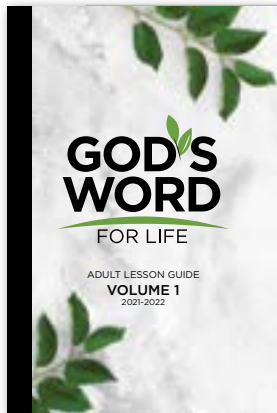
- Adult and Youth Assessments to Track Spiritual Growth
- Kid Assessments to Be Taken in Partnership with Parents
- Teacher Assessments to Evaluate Needs in the Classroom
- Reporting to Track Progress Quarter over Quarter



### **Training and Digital Resources for Teachers**

- Access to a Growing Library of Teacher Training
- Access to Digital God's Word for Life Materials

# ADULT RESOURCES



## Annual Hardback – Print or Digital \$24.99, Print & Digital \$34.99

The new God's Word for Life Hardback Volume 1 contains all the lessons in the quarterly softcover Adult Lesson Guides for the entire curriculum year: Fall–Summer. Lessons will carry students on a journey through the Scripture, challenging students to apply principles of the Word to their lives as we seek to live out our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. It is aligned with the youth and children's levels to study the same section of Scripture each week.

› **Special pricing for 5 or more**



## Lesson Guide – Print or Digital \$9.99, Print & Digital 12.99

The Lesson Guide is a treasury of Apostolic insight into Scripture and an indispensable study and teaching tool. This paperback quarterly has thirteen lessons for each quarter and easily slides in and out of your Bible for convenient transport to church.

› **Available in both regular and large print**  
› **Special pricing for 4 or more**



## Daily Devotional Guide – Print or Digital \$4.99

Becoming lifelong Apostolic disciples takes more investment than just an hour on Sunday or Wednesday. Now you can dig into God's Word every day. This guide gives an overview of the biblical text presented in the Lesson Guide each week and is then divided into smaller portions for daily study. Each day offers brief insight about the Bible passage, a devotion that challenges readers to apply Scripture, and then space to reflect and pray over the principles presented. It also includes a Bible Reading Plan to walk through the entire Bible in a year.

› **Special pricing for 10 or more**



# ADULT RESOURCES



## Resource Kit (RK) – \$24.99

The Resource Kit offers a wide array of materials to help expand the impact of each lesson. From videos that inspire discussion to social media tools to help encourage adults to join your group or class, this kit provides tools to help leaders grow their group and make teaching time more effective.



## Digital Planner

Make plans, set goals, develop spiritual habits, and evaluate your daily, monthly, and yearly progress, all in the context of God's Word for Life. This annual digital planner helps adults organize their lives around God's Word, engage with specific portions of the God's Word for Life materials, and pursue the goals, dreams, and desires God has placed in their hearts.



## Podcast

The God's Word for Life Podcast presents portions of Scripture with fresh insight and urges adults to think deeply about how the Bible impacts their lives. Each week episodes will encourage listeners to engage with God's Word through reflection and prayer, further develop their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and live out God's Word in their lives.


## Adult Value Pack – \$54.99

- Includes 1 Lesson Guide, 5 Daily Devotional Guides, and 1 Resource Kit. Additional Lesson Guides and Daily Devotional Guides are available at a discounted rate with purchase.



# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

AGES 18+



**ADULT LESSON GUIDE**  
FALL 2021

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**IN THE BEGINNING**  
CREATION AND  
MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE

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**A VOICE IN  
THE WILDERNESS**  
THE LIFE AND MINISTRY  
OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

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**PRAISE YE  
THE LORD**  
A STUDY ON PSALMS



# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

## PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

SERIES 1: IN THE BEGINNING

# 1.1

## PURPOSE IN CREATION

**LESSON BIG IDEA**  
I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

**FOCUS VERSES**  
Genesis 2:7-8  
\* And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.  
\* And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

**LESSON TEXT**  
Genesis 2:1-9, 18-25

**TRUTH ABOUT GOD**  
God desires to have relationship with humanity.

**Series Overview:**  
This series, "In the Beginning," will cover four hallmark events found at the beginning of the Bible: Creation, the Fall, Noah's obedience, and the Tower of Babel. As you teach, highlight both the majesty of God's creation and the disobedience of humanity in turning from God. In addition, focus on the message that God's plan is perfect, and He still offers hope to humanity.

## GETTING STARTED

The first page of each lesson gives pertinent information that will be foundational for the teaching of the lesson. Here you will find the Lesson Title, the Lesson Big Idea, the Truth about God, and both the Focus Verses and Lesson Text. In addition, a callout box will either give an overview of the series (the first lesson of each series contains this information) or will connect students with their daily devotional activity from the previous week.

# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

## PAGE 2



### LESSON CONNECTION

The aging patriarch stepped out into an open field and peered deep into the blackness of the night sky. Countless stars stretched as far as his eyes could see. He had tried to count them all before, but the promise of his posterity outnumbering the stars caused him to pause and question, "How can this be?" He didn't dispute the promise, but he did question how it could possibly be fulfilled in his lineage. The Lord had promised, "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 22:18). Abraham was neither the first nor the last to ask probing questions of eternal significance.

Throughout time, philosophers, poets, prophets, and people from all walks of life have asked questions bigger than their ability to comprehend. Where did we come from? How did we get here? When did life begin? Why are we here? People have also come up with some rather imaginative answers to their questions—from mythological gods fighting like children and cavorting in their passions to produce a progeny on earth to random accidents and cosmic explosions that miraculously manufactured a perfect environment in which life-forms magically appeared. Embracing some of those explanations requires more faith than to believe the long-accepted view of Creation as recorded in Scripture. **V**

The Bible tells us the command of God's voice made matter and energy emerge when He said, "Let there be . . ." Countless millions of stars appeared as burning solar flares in the vastness of eternal space. At His word planets swirled into their orbits, and comets blazed trails through timeless trajectories. Earth spun into a perfect sphere and began its rotation at the perfect speed, allowing a balance of both gravity and centrifugal force, making provision for the free movement of living beings God would create. Earth's atmosphere provided a perpetual canopy of protection from solar radiation but allowed sufficient transmission of light to provide warmth and an abundance of vegetation through photosynthesis. The planet's defined revolution around the sun charted a path for seasons and cycles. It marked the days and set time in order so God's ultimate purpose would be fulfilled.

For Christians, the biblical account of Creation is not only believable, but it is the authoritative version of events explaining our origin. The scriptural record was never intended to be a comprehensive narrative of historical chronology, but rather a theological synopsis of God's plan for the crowning glory of His creation, humanity. God has an incredible purpose for every individual born into this wonderful world.

**Teacher Option:**  
Show video to help illustrate this Lesson Connection.

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## LESSON CONNECTION

The Lesson Connection will be a story or illustration designed to give students a glimpse of the overall theme of the lesson. Since stories often appeal to the heart and emotions, this portion of the lesson seeks to engage the heart so the mind is open to receive the truth that will be taught.




# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

## PAGE 3

LESSON 11

### SG TEACHING OUTLINE

**Icebreaker:** What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited? How is God's creative majesty on display there?

**Lesson Connection:** Share the Lesson Connection on page 9. 

**I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATION**

- *How did you derive your beliefs about our origin? Have your views changed over the years? Explain.*

**A. Creation Was Not a Random Act of God**

**B. God Had A Specific Purpose for Everything He Created**

- *Is there something you have seen or somewhere you have visited that caused you to marvel at God's incredible creativity? Explain.*

**II. GOD DESIRES TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY**

**A. God Cares for All of His Creation**

**B. God Breathed on Man and Gave Him Life**

- *In what ways would people act differently if they believed in God as the Creator and as the moral authority over all humanity?*

**C. Only Man Became a Living Soul**

- *In what ways are we responsible for the Earth and its many creatures?*

**III. GOD CREATED THE WORLD WITH HUMANITY IN MIND**

**A. God Created Everything, Knowing Man and Woman Would Live on the Earth**

**B. Everything Created on a Specific Day Needed Everything Created on the Previous Days (1)**

- *What is our purpose in the earth and what is our responsibility to God?*

**C. I Can Develop a Fulfilling Relationship with God Because He Has Given Me Everything I Need**

**Internalizing the Message**

**Prayer Focus**  
Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

- Offering praise to God for Creation and His wonderful works
- Giving thanks for God's provision

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## TEACHING OUTLINE

The SG (Small Group) Teaching Outline is the lesson content in outline form. Each lesson main point is listed along with suggested discussion questions. Although the outline can be used to teach the lesson in a large group setting, the "SG" indicates the content is also designed to be used in a Small Group. Because of this, an icebreaker question has been provided to help jumpstart interaction in the Small Group meeting. A companion piece for Small Group participants can be found on the last page of each week of material in the student Daily Devotional Guide.



# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

## PAGE 4

PURPOSE IN CREATION

### LESSON COMMENTARY

**I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATION**

How many of us can quote Genesis 1:1? No doubt we believe God created the universe, but do we stop to appreciate the wonder of that truth? God made what He made out of the sheer joy of creating. And His joy over creation was infectious. The sons of God, says the Book of Job, "shouted for joy" when the foundations of the earth were being laid (Job 38:7). As a mother puts a bow in her daughter's hair, not to make her pretty, but because she's pretty already; God decorated the heavens and the earth not out of pure necessity, but rather out of a boundless love for what He had made.

*How did you develop your beliefs about our origin? Have your views changed over the years? Explain.*

**A. Creation Was Not a Random Act of God**

Someone suggested the Big Bang theory of Creation would be akin to an EF5 tornado ripping up a salvage yard filled with acres of car parts, only to end up with a gleaming, beautifully restored classic automobile emerging from the debris field. Never has such a thing happened in the aftermath of a storm. Neither did our planet emerge from some cataclysmic explosion of space matter. Random destruction has never created order. Chaos has never produced perfection.

At the very least, serious scientists must agree that some prime mover (a concept first advanced by Aristotle), some higher power, some intelligent designer was at work in the elaborate scheme of Creation. By definition, creation necessitates a creator.

**B. God Had A Specific Purpose for Everything He Created**

Some assembly required can be a somewhat misleading statement on the box of a child's new bicycle. Parents often scramble through the cryptic instructions and insufficient illustrations, trying to put all the parts in place, only to have a few extra pieces left over once the project appears to be completed. They always hope the extra parts were not essential or important for the safe operation of the bike.

When God spoke words of creative force, every command contained divine purpose. Creation was not a cosmic experiment so he could see what would eventually ensue. No extra and unnecessary parts scattered the landscape. Every aspect of creation conjoins in symbiotic relationship. All life-forms are complementary. Everything that exists in some way supports other life-forms by its existence.

If God had such a grand purpose in the microbes and unseen elements of creation, why would He not have an equally grand and even greater purpose for the crowning glory of His creation? People have purpose. Humans lead the created order in intelligence, and all are intended to serve a greater cause.

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## LESSON COMMENTARY

The Lesson Commentary is a manuscript of the entire lesson. The lessons are written by various Apostolic authors who not only skillfully explain the truths of Scripture but also share ways in which we can apply these truths to our lives. The Lesson Commentary contains discussion questions to stimulate thought and media callouts (videos and images) to connect with students of all learning styles.

# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

## PAGE 5

### LESSON 1.1

*Is there something you have seen or somewhere you have visited that caused you to marvel at God's incredible creativity? Explain.*

Some people are not more essential or less essential than others. Rather, each one is valued. All are precious in His sight, and He has a plan for every human life.

#### II. GOD DESIRES TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY

If a single living cell were built to a scale of ten square miles, we would see a whole city—a whole galaxy—teeming with life, busier than New York City at rush hour, more complex than a microchip. We have not even yet contemplated the universe at the subatomic level. The very vastness and beauty of the universe can actually lure the human mind into a misunderstanding about its Creator.

##### A. God Cares for All of His Creation

It is easy to assume that God is too great and mysterious to attend to small matters. But this kind of thinking is distinctly human. We look at the grandeur of heaven—the celestial lights, the staggering distance from here to there—and then project our limitations onto God. We all know what it is like to feel unimportant, but we make a mistake about God when we infer from the grandness of the universe that He too must have better things to do.

The truth is, it is not in the vastness of the universe that we see the vastness of God. From a spider's perspective, we humans, with our stadiums and skyscrapers, must seem awfully big. Nothing in this universe is truly "big." Largeness and smallness are relative terms. A star is big, until it is compared to a galaxy. A mountain is big, until it is compared to a star. A tree is big, until it is compared to a mountain. We cannot determine what God values simply by measuring and comparing magnitudes.

God is not great because He is infinitely big; He is great because He is infinitely present. And the exactness of His creation—the attention to matters that might seem unimportant to us—reveals this truth. How vast must the Holy One's "attention span" be to attend, if you will, the sparrow's funeral, or make a mathematical recalculation every time a hair falls from the head of one of the eight billion human beings who are alive today?

The insignificance we often feel stands in stark contrast to the pride God takes in us, His children. What is man that God is mindful of us? It's hard to say exactly. But God's behavior toward us—His infinite love, the gift of His presence, and the fact that He became a man Himself—tells us all we need to know.

##### B. God Breathed on Man and Gave Him Life

Humans were created on the sixth day of Creation. God formed a man from the dirt. Then God breathed life into the still form of His design, "And man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7).

# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

## PAGE 6

### PURPOSE IN CREATION

God has given life, and only God's timing should cause its conclusion. Creation gives value to every living soul. If we were the product of random evolution, humans would have no quantitative value; lives would be expendable, without accountability, and retribution would be unnecessary. However, because people are created and designed in the image of God, every individual has intrinsic value, and we are all reflections of our Creator.

*In what ways would people act differently if they believed in God as the Creator and as the moral authority over all humanity?*

#### C. Only Man Became a Living Soul

Not only did Adam live and breathe, but unique to creation, he was given a spiritual core, a living soul. The breath of God made this creation unlike any animal or created thing. All others were spoken into existence by the word of God. However, the first man was fashioned by the hand of God, and life was breathed into him by the Spirit of God.

While some maintain that the *soul* is merely a synonym for life, the distinction in Scripture becomes more apparent. Others in the animal kingdom have intellect, reflect emotions, and learn skills from their environment, but no other creature was made in God's image and so carefully designed with His thoughtful attention. Though some animals are stronger, humans have been able to tame and train them. A variety of animals have adapted to adverse environmental challenges, but humans have been able to devise shelter and have survived in almost every environment.

The uniqueness of humanity was established from the beginning. We have a responsibility to other human beings. We also are responsible to wisely use all the resources with which the earth has been enriched.

*In what ways are we responsible for the Earth and its many creatures?*

### III. GOD CREATED THE WORLD WITH HUMANITY IN MIND

Once the idea that God has created the world is granted, the message is quite clear. There are no language barriers to understanding creation's sermon. Its purpose is not to point to itself, but away from itself to something else. Creation points us toward God, and the world becomes a virtual symphony, praising its Creator. We might even call the world the great "matchmaker," setting up a place for us to meet God. A matchmaker isn't supposed to become the object of love himself; he is supposed to bring lovers together. Likewise, the world, as the great matchmaker, isn't our ultimate partner. As the lily among the thorns reminded the lover of his beloved in Song of Songs (2:2), so was the world made to remind us of God. And, in this world of wonders, that is the most wonderful thing about the world.

#### A. God Created Everything, Knowing Man and Woman Would Live on the Earth

The master plan in the mind of our Maker included everything in nature necessary for the continuance of life. God placed humanity in a prepared place. The oxygen levels would be maintained at the

# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

## PAGE 7

### LESSON 1.1

right levels. Adequate seasons would regulate temperatures and synchronize the cycles of growth and harvest, producing fruits and vegetables in abundance for all living creatures. Ultimately, God methodically and purposefully prepared everything for humanity. All was designed to bring quality to our lives and sustenance for our continued well-being.

God knows the end from the beginning and has methodically prepared everything for the length of our days. Natural resources are in abundance. We should value our resources and conserve our supply as we care for our environment, but we can live free from fear and dread of what could happen a thousand years in the future.

**Teacher Option:**  
Show Image of the  
Days of Creation  
chart.

#### **B. Everything Created on a Specific Day Needed Everything Created on the Previous Days**

The days of Creation were building blocks of strategic design. | |

“Let there be light,” God said. Those were the first words at the dawn of Creation. And the light sustained the elements of the subsequent days of Creation. The waters and atmosphere were next, and elements were divided to hold their places and respect their boundaries. Day and night, water and sky, and then the earth and seas were designed for fruitfulness, all within the first three days of Creation.

In the next three days, God continued to populate and detail the elements of Creation. He gave us heavenly bodies to harness the light, reflecting it throughout the heavens—the sun abundantly lighting the day and the moon and millions of stars filling the night sky. The waters were filled with fish and all manner of aquatic life, and fowl filled the air as they scattered throughout the earth. By the sixth day of Creation, vegetation was already prepared for the cattle, and creatures of the earth began consuming their nutrition. The culmination of Creation was the design of the first man, Adam. Everything was prepared for the sustenance of life and for humanity’s pleasure.

*What is our purpose in the earth and what is our responsibility to God?*

*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (Genesis 2:2 NKJV)*

#### **C. I Can Develop a Fulfilling Relationship with God Because He Has Given Me Everything I Need**

God has provided everything we need to grow in relationship with Him. Through the church we have fellowship with other believers and find the strength and encouragement we need in times of difficulty. We have received the divine Word of Truth to guide us and order our steps. The privilege of prayer has been placed at our disposal, so we can communicate with our heavenly Father. And He has given us His Spirit, so we may possess the power to live as overcomers. Every good and perfect gift has been given to us from above.



# ADULT SAMPLE LESSON

## PAGE 8

PURPOSE IN CREATION

### INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

In a fairy tale, everything is unpredictable. The princess approaches a tree, and the tree might end up talking; she's kind to a toad, who might turn out to be a prince. But what happens when the princess has figured out her world? Houses made of sweets no longer surprise her. Is it still a fairy-tale world? If not, why not? Has anything changed about the world? No. The only thing that has changed is in her.

We need a certain degree of predictability to get through life. Usually, the better we are at anticipating what comes next, the better we are at what we do. But for all the skill we develop in predicting and regulating life, there's a cost: we lose the capacity to be surprised. As children, the world surprised us—constantly; and for many, it is no coincidence that they look back on their childhood and feel they've lost something valuable. Life seemed more enchanted then. There is an inverse relationship between being skillful and being able to be surprised. And we've trod wonder for predictability. In truth, the world hasn't changed since we were children. It is we who have changed.

Have you ever looked at a giraffe? We mock the notion of a unicorn, calling it a "fantasy." And indeed, it seems to have been entirely the work of human imagination. But let's not assume that the unicorn doesn't exist because it is too fantastical and unreal. If we're denying the existence of things on the basis of a thing looking "unreal," what should we say of the long-necked giraffe? The most amazing thing about it is that it looks as if it shouldn't exist. But somehow it does.

In your wildest imaginations, in your most imaginative fancies, you could not come up with a world stranger and more enchanting than the world in which you now live. If we're not careful, adulthood puts us in paradoxical danger of being blinded by the very skill that is supposed to come as the result of having better sight. The ability to be awed by creation doesn't have to be jettisoned as we mature, any more than love has to leave once a man has become familiar with his wife. Wonder, like love, can mature. Our task is to strip away the jaded callouses that have attached themselves to our outlook. How can we encourage one another to behold with fresh wonder God's creation? And once this sense of wonder is restored, we may be in a far better position to ask: if creation is this awe-inducing, how much more the Creator?



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## INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

The end of each lesson will offer a summary of the lesson's content. At times specific actions will be suggested to apply the lesson content. The goal of each lesson is not just to share biblical information, but to show what must be done with the information and challenge students to apply God's Word to their lives.

# ADULT DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## SAMPLE DEVOTIONAL



# ADULT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021      SERIES 1: IN THE BEGINNING

# 1.1

## PURPOSE IN CREATION

**LESSON BIG IDEA**  
I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

**TRUTH ABOUT GOD**  
God desires to have relationship with humanity.



**FOCUS VERSE: Genesis 2:7-8**  
<sup>7</sup> And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.  
<sup>8</sup> And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

**LESSON TEXT: Genesis 2:1-9, 18-25**

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Page 1 will help provide the Lesson Big Idea, Truth about God, Lesson Text, and Focus Verse that will be used in a church's Sunday school class or small group setting.



# ADULT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## PAGE 2

### BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 2:1-9, 18-25


As the first verse of the Bible declares, God created everything that exists. Someone suggested, "After Genesis 1:1, everything else is commentary." As you read Genesis 1 and then continue into Genesis 2, you notice something interesting right away. The account of the creation of humanity is seen first in Genesis 1:26-28, but it appears again beginning in Genesis 2:7. The two records are not the same.

The first two chapters of Genesis do not describe different creative events. Instead, the second chapter focuses in greater detail on some of God's work on the third, fifth, and sixth days. These include trees, birds, various animals, and people.

In general, the overview in Genesis 1 and the more detailed account in Genesis 2 present a bright and hopeful perspective of a glorious future worthy of God's magnificent creation. The hint of a dark shadow falls, however, in the second telling.

Fruit trees are mentioned first in Genesis 1:11. The trees were a good thing (Genesis 1:12). So what is this about "the tree of knowledge of good and evil" in the second account of creation (Genesis 2:9)? Adam had just begun his 930 years on earth. Why the warning so soon about death? What did it have to do with this tree God had made to grow from the ground?

How can it be that God formed Adam of the dust of the ground and then evaluated His own creative work as "not good" (Genesis 1:12). So what is this about "the tree of knowledge of good and evil" in the second account of creation (Genesis 2:9)? Adam had just begun his 930 years on earth. Why the warning so soon about death? What did it have to do with this tree God had made to grow from the ground? (See Genesis 2:19-20.)



FROM WHENCE  
CAME THE  
CONCEPT  
OF SHAME?

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Page 2 will give a "high level" Biblical Overview of the Scripture Text. The content will explore the text, its background, and any other pertinent information to help adults better understand the setting, purpose, and message of the Scripture text.



# ADULT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## PAGE 3

LESSON 11

**DAY 1** Bible Reading Plan  
Genesis 1  2  3  4  5  | Matthew 1

**Genesis 2:1-3**  
<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.  
<sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.  
<sup>3</sup>And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

**Biblical Insight**  
The first verse of Genesis 2 reminds us of the first verse of Genesis 1. Although the KJV reads *heaven* in Genesis 1:1 and *heavens* in Genesis 2:1, the Hebrew word is the same in both cases. The NKJV translates *heavens* in both verses. We should not attempt to construct doctrines from translational differences like this.

Genesis 2:2-3 shows the ending of God's creative work. He had finished what He set out to do, so God rested.

**Daily Devotion**  
Have you ever driven around town on a chilly crisp Christmas morning? The streets look deserted. A beautiful stillness fills the air. It is the closest example of a sabbath rest we enjoy as a society. Yet the holy pause only lasts a brief moment before the hustle and bustle crash in again with the frantic pace of another year.

Rush wears out the soul. So our loving Creator invites us to celebrate rest. But this is not just any rest. It is God's rest. God's rest offers freedom from conflict, confusion, and cravings. God's rest provides peace, tranquility, and stillness. God's rest offers hope in Christ.

"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest" (Hebrews 4:9-11, NKJV).

Sabbath rest for the soul required the work of the Cross. Rest takes work. Today, "be diligent to enter that rest." Repent from the hurry and create space for God. It may be why God created the Sabbath, after all, so we would pause long enough to be with our Creator.

**Reflection**  
» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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Five days of devotionals are provided each week. The top of each page features a Bible Reading plan for the day, along with a portion of the Scripture text to explore with the help of a section of Biblical Insight on that portion of the text. Next is a Daily Devotion to read and a prompt to reflect and pray about the principles presented.

# ADULT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## PAGE 4

PURPOSE IN CREATION

**DAY 2** **Bible Reading Plan**  
Genesis 6  7  8  9  | Matthew 2

**Genesis 2:4–6**  
<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,  
<sup>5</sup>and every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.  
<sup>6</sup>But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

**Biblical Insight**  
The word translated *generations* appears ten times in Genesis (2:4; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 36:9; 37:2). Sometimes translated *history*, it expresses the idea of “a written record of past events” (Logos Bible Software). In Genesis, it marks the natural divisions of the book (Apostolic Study Bible).

Why the need for a history of plants and herbs before the creation of Adam? Since there was no one to till the ground, the LORD God caused no rain. A mist provided moisture. To produce according to its potential, the earth needed humans to provide cultivation (Genesis 2:15).

**Daily Devotion**  
Work. What images come to mind when you read the word work? Too often we feel overwhelmed at our job. We long for a break from the stress. So we plan vacations to escape. Or work reveals our shortcomings and how we never quite measure up. So we are driven but seldom content in our efforts. Work feels at times like an unruly taskmaster—not the gracious provision of our Creator.

Notice, though, God created work before sin disrupted His creative purpose. God’s desire is for us to find His pleasure in our work. Vocational holiness calls us to see work as a gift. “We are called to do good work as a means by which we bring glory to the Creator” (Gordon Smith, *Called to Be Saints*).

God’s creative purpose for work does not destroy us, define us, or rule us. God’s creative intent for vocational pursuits offers another opportunity to experience His joy. Today may you experience His joy in your work and find the strength to pursue His purpose for your life.

**Reflection**  
» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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# ADULT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## PAGE 5

LESSON 11

### DAY 3

Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 10  11  12  13  14  | Matthew 3

#### Genesis 2:7-9

<sup>7</sup> And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

<sup>8</sup> And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

<sup>9</sup> And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

#### Biblical Insight

In Genesis 1:26-27, we learned that God made humans, male and female, in His image and likeness. Now we discover additional detail. The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground. The word translated “man” is the Hebrew *adam*, commonly transliterated *Adam*. Since *adamah*, translated “dust” means ground or land, we could say this means Adam was an *earthling*.

No one knows for sure the location of the Garden of Eden. Because it was eastward, many assume it was east of the Promised Land. The names of the four rivers associated with the garden may confirm this vicinity.

#### Daily Devotion

In *Mortal Lessons*, physician Richard Selzer described a poignant scene in a hospital room after he performed surgery on a young woman's face. Dr. Selzer carefully removed a tumor in her cheek, but to do so required severing a facial nerve. Now, her face would always remain twisted in paralysis. When he visited her bedside after surgery, she and her young husband held hands, awaiting his prognosis.

The young woman asked, “Will my mouth always be like this?” Dr. Selzer responded, “Yes, it will. The nerve was cut.” She nodded in silence. Her young husband smiled and said, “I like it. It's kind of cute.” Then, her husband bent down to kiss her crooked mouth, twisting his lips to match hers. He wanted to show her that their kiss still worked.

When God formed humanity from the dust, He created us in the image of His holiness. Yet when sin destroyed our righteousness, our Creator did not turn away. He saw our brokenness and came close to reconcile us back to Him (II Corinthians 5:19). God showed us that His love still worked: “The essence of holiness lies in restoring God's image in us” (Derek Tidball, *The Message of Holiness*).

#### Reflection

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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# ADULT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## PAGE 6

PURPOSE IN CREATION

**DAY 4** Bible Reading Plan  
Genesis 15 □ 16 □ 17 □ 18 □ | Matthew 4 □

**Genesis 2:18-20**  
<sup>18</sup> And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.  
<sup>19</sup> And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.  
<sup>20</sup> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

**Biblical Insight**  
The only aspect of creation God declared “not good” had to do with the man being alone. Isolation is unhealthy. Adam needed “an help meet.” The words “help meet” must not be collapsed into *helpmate*. The two Hebrew words translated “help meet” refer to an essential helper, one Adam could not do without and who was equivalent to him.

Since we know how things turned out, it is somewhat shocking to see that God’s next step was to parade beasts and birds before Adam, giving him an opportunity to name them. None of these creatures answered Adam’s need for “an help meet.”

**Daily Devotion**  
In *A Year in Treblinka*, Yankel Wiernikln shared heart-wrenching memoirs about surviving the holocaust. One memory occurred in a boxcar train on the way to the infamous prison camp, Auschwitz.

The Nazis locked Yankel and the prisoners in a boxcar for the night with no food or blankets. An older man from Yankel’s hometown happened to be next to him. It was deathly cold, and the older man was shivering. Yankel wrapped his arms around him and did everything he could to keep his elderly neighbor warm. Long, arduous hours passed in the bitter cold. Then morning came, and the sun finally appeared to warm the boxcar. But the sun’s light also revealed a horror. As Yankel looked around the car, all he saw were frozen bodies. No one made it through the night. Everyone died but Yankel and his elderly neighbor.

“The old man survived because somebody kept him warm,” Yankel explained. “I survived because I was warming somebody else.”

It is not good to be alone. “If two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?” (Ecclesiastes 4:11, NKJV). Find someone to keep warm today.

**Reflection**  
» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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# ADULT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## PAGE 7

LESSON 11

### DAY 5

Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 19  20  21  22  | Matthew 5

#### Genesis 2:21-25

<sup>21</sup> And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

<sup>22</sup> and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

<sup>23</sup> And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

<sup>25</sup> And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

#### Biblical Insight

Genesis 1:27 records the creation of the first woman. She is the "help meet," Adam's necessary equivalent, made from Adam's flesh and bones. Adam said, "She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Genesis 2:23). The word translated *man* here is *ish*. The word translated *woman* is *ishshah*, a feminine form.

Genesis 2:24 is a key to the subject of marriage. Both Jesus (Matthew 19:5) and Paul quoted it (Ephesians 5:31-32). The verse validates marriage as the formation of a new and permanent family unit characterized by oneness. In a marriage like this, there is no shame (Genesis 2:25).

#### Daily Devotion

The loving Creator placed humanity amid the garden. The garden provided everything humanity needed to flourish. Still, the garden would require careful attention to yield the benefits the Creator desired. Similarly, the loving Creator placed humanity in marriage to thrive relationally. Marriage was God's provision for a relational void. However, it would still require careful attention to yield the benefits the Creator desired.

The health of marriages does not depend on big moments. Relationships live or die in the daily decisions of a couple's life. Godly choices in private and purposeful efforts in public create an environment of grace for holy growth and maturity. The fruit of the marriage is simply the result of healthy personal decisions and intentional public commitments of faith.

If a couple is not seeing the fruit desired in a marriage, it is either a root or a climate issue. "Marriage," as Paul Tripp explains, "is a sinner married to a sinner in a fallen world with a faithful God" (*Habits of a Healthy Marriage*). Careful attention to the private and public life will yield the desired results of the Creator.

#### Reflection

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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# ADULT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## PAGE 8

**SG** PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE  LESSON **1.1**

**Lesson Title:** Purpose in Creation

**Scripture Focus:** Genesis 2:7-8.

**The Lesson in Context**  
The Word of the Lord that was given to the people of Judah through Jeremiah continues to give us encouragement and confidence for what God will do in our future. Jeremiah wrote God's plans for His people, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11, NKJV).

God has a purpose in our existence and a wonderful plan for our lives. Out of all His creation, God chose us to fulfill His plan in this world. In the words of one of George MacDonald's characters in *David Elginbrod*, he said, "I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of. For to have been thought about—born in God's thoughts—and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest, most precious thing in all thinking" (*The Complete Works of George MacDonald*).

Considering all God has done and the great love with which He loves us, we should naturally want to develop a passionate relationship with our God.

**Group Discussion**

1. How did you derive your beliefs about our origin? Have your views changed over the years? Explain.
2. Is there something you have seen or somewhere you have visited that caused you to marvel at God's incredible creativity? Explain.
3. In what ways would people act differently if they believed in God as the Creator and as the moral authority over all humanity?
4. In what ways are we responsible for the earth and its many creatures?
5. What is our purpose in the earth and what is our responsibility to God?

**My prayer for the upcoming week:**  
(How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?)

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The Small Group (SG) Participant's Guide is designed for those who meet in small groups. It is to be used in conjunction with the SG Lesson Outline found in the Teacher's Lesson Guide. Participants can read the overview of the lesson and come prepared for the group discussion.

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