

LESSON



God's Friends

GRACE

Grace is God's love for us.

References

Genesis 1:24–31; 2:4–23; 3:20; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 45–47.

Memory Verse

“God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image’ ” (Genesis 1:26, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God created people to be His friends.

Feel that God wants each of us to be His friend.

Respond by telling God they want to be His friend.

The Message



God made people to be His friends.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God creates Adam and Eve. He makes Adam first; then He creates Eve. He gives them a beautiful, perfect world to enjoy. He wants us to enjoy this wonderful gift of His grace also.

This is a lesson about grace.

God created us to dwell on, enjoy, and populate the earth that He made.

He provided for every need we would ever have, and many things we might never need but can enjoy.

Teacher Enrichment

“All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made ‘in the image of God,’ and it was the Creator’s

TWO

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Pet Care</i> B. <i>Flat Selves</i> C. <i>Playdough People</i>	live animal or pet butcher paper or newsprint, crayons or markers, scissors clay or playdough (or see p. 140), plastic to protect table and floor
* Prayer and Praise	up to 10	See page 23. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	picture of a friend, picture of Jesus
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	two children
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Jesus' Best Friends</i>	8"x10" (20 cm x 25 cm) or larger empty picture frame
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Thumbprint People</i>	ink pad or marker, poster board, pencil or pen, stick-on magnetic tape, baby wipes

design that they should populate the earth. They were to live in close communion with heaven, receiving power from the Source of all power. Upheld by God, they were to live sinless lives" (Ellen G. White, in *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, Feb. 11, 1902).

"The word 'man' is 'adam' in Hebrew, the very word God employed in naming the father of the human race (Genesis 5:2). The meaning of this word has been variously explained. It is descriptive of either his color, from 'adam, 'to be red'; or his appearance, from an Arabic root which signifies 'to shine,' thus making Adam 'the brilliant

one'; or his nature as God's image, from *dam*, 'likeness'; or, and most probably, his origin, 'the ground,' from 'adamah, 'the one of the soil' " (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 216).

Room Decorations

See lesson 1. If you did not include pictures of people on your bulletin boards, add them this week. Place a picture of Jesus in the center of a bulletin board surrounded by children of different ethnic groups or photos of the children in the class. Title the display "Friends of Jesus."

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A. Pet Care

You Need:

- a live pet

Bring or ask someone to bring a pet to Sabbath School. Allow the children to touch, pet, and smell the animal. Explain how to take care of the animal and what it needs to stay healthy. Be aware of possible allergies.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Who has an animal at their house? Is it a pet? Is it your friend? On the sixth day of Creation God made animals to be our friends. God also made something else on the sixth day—people!**



God made people to be His friends.

Say that with me.

B. Flat Selves

You Need:

- rolls of butcher paper or newsprint (or smooth paper tablecloth)
- crayons or markers
- scissors

Spread a large piece of paper on the floor. Ask a child to lie down on the paper while you trace his or her outline on the paper. Cut out the shape. Repeat for as many children as want to participate. Let the children add facial features and color the flat versions of themselves.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Was it fun making a flat copy of you? What will you do with it? Is it real? Can it play with you? Do you think God had fun making real people? Why do you think God made people? I think**



God made people to be His friends.

Say that with me.

C. Playdough People

Have the children make an animal or a person by using modeling clay or playdough. Spread plastic or paper on the floor and tables to protect the area the children will use. (See page 140 for a playdough recipe.)

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you make?** Allow response time. **Did you enjoy making your animal/person? Today we are going to talk about more things God made. God made animals and people.**



God made people to be His friends.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- modeling clay or playdough
- plastic or paper to protect the floor
- recipe for playdough (see p. 140)

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the children's joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "And God Said" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 66)
- "God Made Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 164)
- "Creation" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 68)
- "God Made Our World" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 71)
- "God Made the Sun and Moon and Stars" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 165)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Our offering goes to help other children learn that God made them to be His friend.**

Prayer

You Need:

- picture of your friend, picture of Jesus

Show a picture and tell the children about your friend. **I don't have a picture of my best friend. Can you guess who it is? (God, Jesus) Would you like God to be your best friend too? Let's pray and tell Him so.** Let the children repeat after you.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- two children to play Adam and Eve

God looked happily at the beautiful world He had made. It was perfect. There was lots of fresh air to breathe. *(Take a deep breath and invite the children to do the same.)* The warm sun shone down on the earth. *(Raise your*

arms above your head in a circle and invite the children to do the same.) When nighttime came, millions and millions of twinkling stars filled the sky. *(Quickly open and close your fists above your head and invite the children to do the same.)*

The earth was filled with soft green grass and tall, majestic trees. Fishes swam in the seas and rivers. *(Put palms together with thumbs up to imitate a fish and invite the children to do the same.)* Beautiful birds soared overhead. *(Pretend to fly like a bird and invite the children to do the same.)* Kangaroos and bunnies hopped *(hop like a bunny)*, kittens meowed *(meow like a kitten)*, woolly sheep baaed *(baa like a sheep)*, roosters crowed *(crow like a rooster)*, and horses galloped. *(Make the sound of galloping horses by patting your hands on your legs.)*

When God finished creating all the animals, He said, "Go, and have many babies. Fill up the beautiful world I have made."

God's world was perfect, but it wasn't quite finished. There was one more thing God planned to make.

God said, "Let us make man in our image." So God made the shape of a man from the dust of the ground. *(Ask your Adam to come and lie very still on the floor with his eyes closed.)* But the man did not move. He lay very still on the ground. *(If you made flat children or playdough people for a readiness*

activity, point out that like the people they made, the man on the ground wasn't alive.)

Then God did something very special. He breathed life into the man's nose. That's something only God can do. No matter how much you or I breathe into a doll or a person we make out of paper or clay or playdough, we will never be able to make it live. But God breathed life into that man. *(Ask the child to open his eyes.)* The man stretched. *(Ask the child to stretch.)* He sat up. *(Ask the child to sit up.)* And the very first thing the man saw was God.

God named the man Adam.

All the animals had mates, but Adam didn't have a mate. So God said, "It isn't good for the man to be alone. I will make a mate for him."

God made Adam fall into a deep sleep. And while he was sleeping, God took one of Adam's ribs, and made a woman, Eve.

When Adam woke up from his sleep, God introduced him to the beautiful Eve. They were the first family in the new world God had made. God blessed Adam and Eve. He said, "Have many children. Fill up the beautiful world I have created for you. Enjoy all the food I have provided and all the animals I made." God loved them. He wanted them to be His friends forever. God loves us. He wants us to be His friends forever too.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say:
How do you think Adam and Eve felt when they saw God for the first time? How do you think Adam and Eve felt when they saw [name some animals] for the first

time? Did God create people or animals first? Why did God make people? (He wanted them to be His friends.) **Who would like to be God's friend? Remember:**



God made people to be His friends.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

You Need:
 Bible

Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Say: **Let's look in the Bible to see where the story**

we just heard is found in God's Word. Here it is, right at the beginning of the Bible.

Point to Genesis 1 and 2 and read selected verses aloud. Ask: **How did God make the first man? What was his name? How did He make the first woman? What was her name?**

Memory Verse

Open your Bible and point to Genesis 1:26. Say: **This is where our memory verse is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Point to each word as you read the verse aloud. Use the motions to teach the verse. Repeat several times, until children know the memory verse.

You Need:
 Bible

God Point upward.



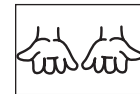
said, Put hands up to mouth.



"Let us make Fists "grind" one above the other.



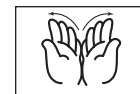
mankind Place hands out in front of body, palms up.



in our image." Start hands at head on either side of body and sweep down the body.



Genesis 1:26 Palms together, then open.



Optional Creation Litany

by Donna Meador

The children should clap their hands when they shout "Thank You, Jesus!" Practice this with them.

Adult: *Jesus made the light and air!*

Children: *Thank You, Jesus!*

Adult: *Jesus made land and water.*

Children: *Thank You, Jesus!*

Adult: *Jesus made the flowers and trees!*

Children: *Thank You, Jesus!*

Adult: *Jesus made the fruit!*

Children: *Thank You, Jesus!*

Adult: *Jesus made the sun, moon, and stars!*

Children: *Thank You, Jesus!*

Adult: *Jesus made the fish, birds, and animals!*

Children: *Thank You, Jesus!*

Adult: *Jesus made Adam and Eve!*

Children: *Thank You, Jesus!*

Adult: *Jesus made the Sabbath!*

Children: *Thank You, Jesus!*

All: *Thank You! Thank You! Thank You, Jesus!*

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- an empty picture frame, 8" x 10" (20 cm. x 25 cm.) or larger

Jesus' Best Friends

Say: **During our prayer time I showed you a picture of my friend. Now we are going to make live pictures of Jesus' best friends.** Hold up the empty picture frame and ask a child to come to the front and look through it. As you place the frame around the child's face, ask,

"Who is Jesus' friend?" Encourage the other children in class to respond. Ask the child in the frame, **"Who else is Jesus' friend?"** Encourage that child to name someone else in class,

who will then come to the front to look through the frame.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Who is your best friend? Can you think of things that friends do with each other? How can we be friends with Jesus? Remember:**



God made people to be His friends.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Thumbprint People

Help the children make thumbprint people by first pressing their thumb onto the ink pad and then onto a small piece of poster board. (If you don't have an ink pad, you can color the child's thumb with a washable marker. Clean the children's thumbs with baby wipes or wet paper towels.) Use a pencil or pen to add facial features, hair, and so on. Help nonwriters write "God's friends" beneath the thumbprint people. Cut a piece of magnetic tape to fit the back and stick it on.

Why did God make people? God made people to be His friends. You can share your thumbprint people with someone and tell them that Jesus wants to be their friend. To whom would you like to give your thumbprint people? (Help children verbalize the person to whom they will give their people.)

Remember:



God made people to be His friends.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- ink pad or marker
- pencil or pen
- 3" x 3" (7.5 cm. x 7.5 cm.) pieces of poster board
- stick-on magnetic tape
- baby wipes or paper towels and warm water

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say:



Closing

Close with a prayer thanking God for being our special friend.

STUDENT LESSON

God's Friends

References

Genesis 1:24–31;
2:4–23; 3:20;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets,*
pp. 45–47

Memory Verse

“God said,
‘Let us make
mankind in
our image’ ”
(Genesis 1:26,
NIV).

The Message

God made
people to be
His friends.

Do you have a friend? Do you have someone you like to spend time with? In the beginning of our world, God made two special friends. This is how it happened . . .

God looked happily at the beautiful world He had made. It was perfect! Fresh air! Warm sunshine! Soft green grass and tall trees that reached into the blue sky. Red and yellow and orange and purple flowers nodded in the gentle breeze. Fishes jumped and splashed in the seas and rivers. Beautiful birds soared overhead as they filled the air with happy sounds. Kangaroos and bunnies hopped, kittens meowed, woolly sheep baaed, roosters crowed, and horses galloped. What a beautiful place!

God's world was perfect. But God wanted to do one more thing. “Let us make man in our image,” He said. So God made the shape of a man from the dust of the ground. The man lay very still on the ground. He was not alive.

Then God did something that only God can do. He breathed life into the man's nose. The man stretched. He sat up. And the very first thing the man saw was God.

God named the man Adam. He led Adam into a beautiful garden called Eden. “This garden and everything in it is for you, Adam. Take care of it for Me.”

God and Adam watched the animals. Adam saw all the animals with their mates. Then God said, “It isn't good for the man to be alone. I will make a mate for him.”

So God made Adam fall into a deep sleep. While he was sleeping, God took one of Adam's ribs, and with the rib he formed a woman. When Adam woke up from his sleep, he saw the beautiful woman God had made. Together they would care for everything God had made for them. Adam named the woman Eve because she was the first mother in all the world. Adam and Eve were the first family to live on the new earth.

God blessed Adam and Eve. “Have many children,” He told them. “Fill up the beautiful world I have created for you. Enjoy all that I have made for you.”

God loved Adam and Eve. He wanted them to be happy and be His friends forever. God watched Adam and Eve as they enjoyed the beautiful earth He had created that week. Everything was very good. It was perfect. He was satisfied. And God said, “This is very good!”

And the evening and the morning made the earth's sixth day.



Do and Say

Sabbath

If possible, take the Bible lesson story outside and read it to your child.

Use the following to review the memory verse:

God Point upward.

said, Put hands up to mouth.

“Let us make Fists “grind” one above the other.

mankind Place hands out in front of body, palms up.

in our image.” Start hands at head on either side of body and sweep down body.

Genesis 1:26. Palms together, then open.

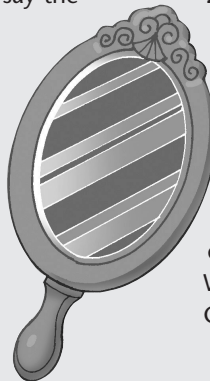
Sunday

Ask your child to tell you the Bible story. Try making a flat version of a family member by asking that person to lie down on a big piece of paper and trace around that person. Color or decorate it.

Using the actions learned yesterday, say the memory verse together.

Monday

Look in the mirror with your child. Do either of you look exactly like anyone else? Why do you think God made each person a little bit different? Thank God for making you both.



Tuesday

Help your child give the thumbprint people made in Sabbath School to someone. Tell that person how and why God made people.



Ask your child to teach the memory verse to someone else. Help with the actions as needed.

Have your child feed you some food; then you feed them. Ask: How does it feel to help someone? to be helped?

Wednesday

Read the Bible story from Genesis 1:24–31 and 2:4–23 and 3:20.

With your child, name five of God’s friends you both know.

Thursday

Make up a song or clap a rhythm to the words: “God made me to be His friend.”

Say the memory verse together.

Friday

Look at the calendar together. Today is the sixth day. This is the day God created people and animals. What is the next day? Tomorrow we will discover what God did on the seventh day.

Act out the Bible story during worship.