

Chosen | Ephesians 1:4-5

Who made you, and why?

“Man was made in the image of God, and nothing will satisfy man but God, in whose image he was made.”
-Charles H. Spurgeon

Lesson Overview

Romans 15:4 tells us that all of Scripture was written to teach us and give us endurance, encouragement and hope. If the entire Bible is important, why do so many Christians ignore the Old Testament? How can we fully understand Jesus if we ignore the stories that point to Him?

Throughout this series, *Echoes of Faith*, we'll discover how the entire Bible tells one connected story that points to Jesus. Starting in the Book of Genesis, students will learn that they were created in the image of God and how Jesus came as the perfect reflection of God on our behalf.

Lesson Objectives

What: Before the foundations of the world God chose us and created us in His Image.

Why: God created humanity to be in relationship with Him and to reflect His goodness on the Earth, this is where the whole story of the Bible begins.

How: Through a creative game, students will experience the intentionality and joy that reflect God's creative nature.

Primary Scripture

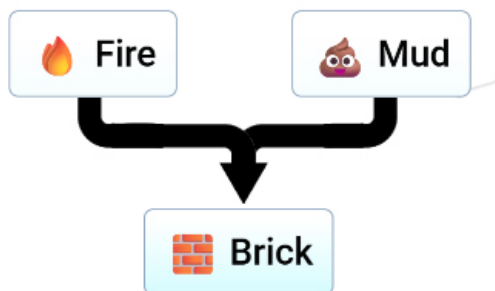
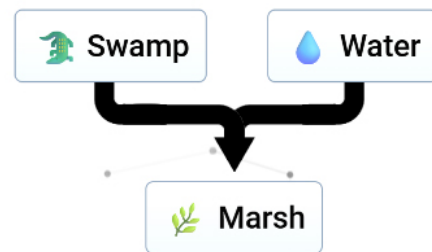
Ephesians 1:4-5: “For he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. ”

Infinite Craft (~20 mins)

- Overview:
 - # of Participants: **Any!**
 - Where to Play: **Indoors**
 - Age of Participants: **Elementary / Middle / High School**
 - Materials: **Phone / Laptops (1 per group)**

Infinite Craft is a browser-based single-player game where you are challenged to create as many unique words as possible. This is done by combining two words you already have on your screen, and an algorithm determines what the combination of those two words is. For example, if you combine “Water” and “Earth”, you get the word “Plant”. You are now able to combine “Plant” with something like “Fire” and get “Smoke”, or combine “Plant” with “Water” again to get “Swamp”, and so on.

For this meeting, arrange your group into small teams (1 to 4 people) and make sure each team has at least one device (phone/laptop). Have everyone navigate to the website <https://neal.fun/infinite-craft/> and teach them how it works. Teams will have 15 minutes to create as many crazy, unique words as possible, and at the end of their time will be asked to submit just one of them for judging. The leader will pick their favorite, and that team wins.



The words can get pretty insane, for example “Angel Dust”, “Carnivorous Frankenstein” or even “Super-spiderman-zombie-train”. Encourage creativity, and try to encourage students to take pride in their creation, as that theme will carry over into the discussion.

The Breakdown (~40 mins)

- Overview:
 - # of Participants: **Any**
 - Where to Play: **Indoors**
 - Age of Participants: **Elementary / Middle / High School**
 - Materials: **Some way to watch a video (laptop, tv/projector, speaker, internet connection, etc.)**

Ask the following questions:

- **When we played Infinite Craft, what were some of your favorite word combinations? What was the most creative combination your team came up with?**
 - Answers will vary according to your group, but the point of this question is to recognize that there's joy in creating something.
- **Did you ever have a specific thing you were trying to create? Or did you mostly discover new things by accident?**
 - You may have stumbled upon a few funny combinations by accident, but many of the things you created were *intentional* and *well thought out*.
- **Creating or designing something meaningful requires intelligence and intentional thought. What are some things in everyday life that make you think, 'Someone had to carefully design this'?**
 - Artwork, music, buildings, books, phones, computers, fancy food, Cars, etc.
 - When we look at these things, we know that they had to come from a creative and intelligent mind.
- **Now think about creation itself. Can you think of anything that shows you God's intentional design? Can you see God's fingerprints everywhere?**
 - Nature and ecosystems, the cosmos, the human body, DNA, math, etc.
 - We see God's influence everywhere. Psalm 19:1 says that "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."
 - Colossians 1:16 says "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."



Say:

- **As Christians, we believe that God created every good thing, both seen and unseen. From the vastness of the universe to the unseen reality of love, all good things were created by God with purpose.**
- **The opposite belief, that many without faith hold, is that the universe is all that exists – that everything is a cosmic accident that came about by random chance and impersonal processes.**
- **No matter what you believe about the world, every person eventually wrestles with these questions: Why am I here? Does my life have meaning? Was I created for a purpose, or am I simply an accident?**
- **As we wrestle with these questions, let's take a moment to watch a video on Genesis 1. Feel free to follow along in your Bibles.**

Watch the following video: *How Genesis 1 Communicates What The Whole Bible is About*

by BibleProject (~7min) - <https://youtu.be/afVN-7vY0KA?feature=shared>

Ask:

- **What grabs your attention when you look at the creation story in Genesis 1? Does it change the way you think about questions like 'Why am I here?' or 'Does my life have purpose?'**
 - *Answers will vary. As the leader perhaps share what you noticed.*
- **What happened on day 6 of creation?**
 - God created man in his own Image - Genesis 1:27
- **What does it mean to be created in the image of God?**
 - Humanity was uniquely created to be God's representatives on Earth. We are God's image bearers.
 - We were created to rule the earth and to have a relationship with God
- **How does being created in the image of God affect the way we should view ourselves and others?**
 - It means that every human being carries inherent value and dignity because we were created in the image of God. We should recognize that every person matters to God. Simply because God created us and loves us, our lives matter.



Say:

- Now, the Bible is clear that all people have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Sin distorts and stains the image of God within us. Just as you wouldn't throw mud on a priceless painting like the Mona Lisa, God does not desire for His image bearers to be stained by sin.
- The good news is that God did something about our sin. Something that can wash us clean of the stain of sin.
- Now, I hope that many of you know what God did, but for a moment let's zoom out and take a look at the Bible as a whole.

Ask:

- From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells one unified story: God's mission to save humanity from sin and restore us to Himself. However, there is a distinct split that separates the Bible into two halves. What are those halves known as?
 - These halves are the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Does anyone know what the word 'Testament' means? What's another word we could use instead?
 - The word testament means a covenant, agreement, or promise. So you could think of the two halves of the Bible as the 'Old Promise' and the 'New Promise.'
- What is the defining event that separates the Old Testament from the New Testament?
 - The life and ministry of Jesus Christ

Say:

- You may be wondering what the Old and New Testaments promises actually are.
- The Old Testament promise was God's covenant with His people through the *Law*. God promised to guide, bless, and dwell with His people if they followed Him.
- The New Testament promise is that *through* Jesus Christ, we can be forgiven of sin and restored into relationship with God through grace and faith.



Ask:

- **By a show of hands, who feels more familiar with the New Testament than the Old Testament?**
 - Most students will probably raise their hands
 - We tend to spend a lot of time talking about Jesus and His Ministry (and rightfully so). But sometimes we forget why Jesus came and how He fulfilled the covenant promises of the Old Testament.

Say:

- **Many people think the Old Testament is outdated or no longer relevant to us today. But throughout this lesson series, we are going to see that the stories of the Old Testament are not irrelevant but essential to understanding the full story of the Bible.**
- **We will see how the Old Testament promises echo the life of Jesus in the New Testament.**
- **Now let's watch one more video from BibleProject that gives an overview of God's covenant with humanity.**

Watch the following video: *The Covenants by the Bible Project*

<https://youtu.be/6HjIGvl8ljM> (~5 min)

Ask:

- **Why does God make covenant promises to us? Why does God want to partner with us?**
 - Because God desires relationship with humanity
 - He partners with us to bring about more goodness out of creation
- **If we are being honest, do we fail to keep our promises to God? Do we actually live our lives that reflect God and follow His will?**
 - Answers will vary. Perhaps as the leader share your response.
 - Most of us feel like we have failed to live out the life God has for us.



Say:

- If you feel like you've failed to reflect God's image, or if you've struggled to find meaning and purpose in life, you're not alone. The good news is that you don't have to have it all together. You don't have to be a perfect image bearer, you don't have to do it all.
- Why? Because of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the perfect image of God. He lived the perfect life that we could never live and fulfilled the promises that we never could. But most importantly, He died on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven and restored into a relationship with God.
- Take a look at Ephesians 1:4-5

4 For he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. **Ephesians 1:4-5**

Say:

- Before the foundation of the world, God chose you. And because of Jesus Christ, we can stand holy and blameless before God. Through Him, we are adopted into God's family and brought into His Kingdom.
- As we close today, remember this: God created you intentionally and chose you for Himself. He loves you deeply and desires to transform you into the image of His Son, Jesus. Your life is not accidental or meaningless, your life has incredible value and purpose to God.
- All we need to do is receive Jesus and his gift of salvation. Let us pray.



Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you God that you chose us before the foundations of the world. God we know that all of us have sinned and fallen short of your glory. We pray, God, that you would restore us and wash us of all unrighteousness. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we ask you to transform us into the likeness of your son, Jesus. Because of Him we are adopted into your kingdom. Lord as we leave this place help us to do your will and walk in a way that glorifies you. We love you Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Chosen (adj) - Selected or marked for favor or special privilege

per [Merriam Webster](#)

