



# God Gives Us Our Body and Life

## Scripture:

- **Genesis 1:26-27:** God created humans in His image. *Action Bible* pp 20-21
  - **Genesis 2:18-25:** Humans are different than animals
  - **Psalms 139:13-14:** "You knit me together in my mother's womb."  
**Theme:** God made each of us uniquely and gave us the gift of life.
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## Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, children will:

1. Recognize that God created their bodies and gave them life.
  2. Learn to appreciate and care for their bodies as gifts from God.
  3. Understand that every person is special and loved by God.
  4. Understand that people and animals are different.
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## Materials Needed:

- Bible
- [Rupprecht pp 1-9](#)
- Mirrors (one for each child or a large one to share)
- Crayons, markers, and paper for drawing

- Playdough or modeling clay
  - A heart template for each child
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## Lesson Outline

### 1. Opening Activity (10 minutes)

#### Discussion Starter:

- Ask: "What are some amazing things your body can do?" (e.g., running, jumping, singing, thinking).
  - Transition: "Today, we'll learn about how God made our bodies and gave us life as a special gift."
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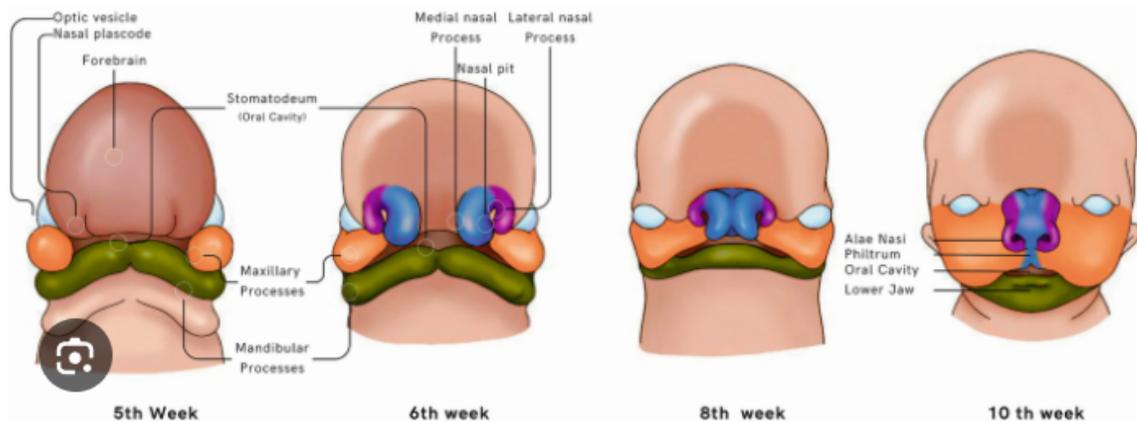
### 2. Bible Story (15 minutes)

#### Read the Scripture:

1. **Genesis 1:26-27:** Explain that God made NAASAH humans in His image, which means we are special and can reflect His love and creativity. Dominion is not dominance but stewardship. Don't trust Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges for a commentary. (They say the "us" is God and the angels.)
  - a. Ephesians 4:17-24 tells us how to act after baptism being renewed in God's image of righteousness (acting right toward others) and holiness (acting right toward God)
  - b. Colossians 3:10 Adds knowledge of God and His Ways to the mix.
  - c. James 3:7 tells us to respect people because they were made in God's Image
  - d. Genesis 9:6 unlike animals, God forbade killing people.
2. **Genesis 2:4,** God made the heavens and the earth from nothing. Now he is going to tell us how he formed people.
3. **and 18-25:** People need people especially one to complement them. EZER is Ally KENEGDO completes him. Animals, too, were formed out of the ground. Naming animals was possible because man was perfect. Not the knowledge found in Col. 3:10 The purpose for the naming action was to show Adam there was no EZER KENEGDO for him. From his side rather than rib he formed the woman. He understood the surgery that had taken place she was ISHAH from ISH. Vs. 24

and 25 could have been said by Adam, God, or Moses. Not ashamed showed their righteousness.

4. **Psalm 139:13-14:** Share how God made each of us with care and purpose. Formed knitted, and made.



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### Discussion Questions:

1. Who made you?
2. What does it mean to be made in God's image?
3. How can we thank God for giving us our bodies and lives?

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### 3. Key Teaching Points (10 minutes)

- **God Made Our Bodies:** Every part of us—our hands, feet, heart, and mind—was made by God.
- Genesis 2:7 <sup>וַיִּצְרֵם</sup> indicates two-fold forming heavenly and earthly JOT
- **God Gives Us Life:** God breathes life into us and cares for us every day.
- **Take Care of Our Bodies:** Since our bodies are gifts, we should eat healthy, stay active, and rest.

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### 4. Visual Demonstration (5 minutes)

#### Mirror Reflection:

- Give each child a mirror.

- Ask: "What do you see? Did you know God made every part of you special?"
  - Say: "When we see ourselves, we remember that we are God's beautiful creations."
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## 5. Craft Activity (15 minutes)

### "God Made Me" Self-Portrait:

- Have children draw a picture of themselves.
  - Around the picture, they can write or draw things that make them unique (e.g., kind, funny, strong).
  - Add the words: "God Made Me!" and Psalm 139:14 at the top of the paper.
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## 6. Hands-On Activity (10 minutes)

### Playdough Creation:

- Let children use playdough or modeling clay to create a person or a body part (e.g., hand, foot).
  - Explain that just like they are shaping the playdough, God shaped us with love and care.
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## 7. Memory Verse (5 minutes)

**Psalm 139:14:** "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

- Practice the verse with motions:
    - "I praise you" (lift hands upward).
    - "Because I am fearfully" (hands over heart).
    - "And wonderfully made" (spread arms wide).
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## 8. Reflection and Application (5 minutes)

### Ask the Children:

1. What is one thing you're thankful for about your body?

2. How can you take care of the life God has given you this week?

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### 9. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

- Thank God for making each of us special and giving us life.
  - Ask for help in using our bodies and lives to honor Him.
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### Optional Extensions:

- **Song:** Sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" or "I Am Special."
- **Game:** Play "Simon Says" to celebrate how our bodies can move.

Ecclesiastes 3:18-22 The unbelievers see no difference between animals and people.

Ecclesiastes 3:18-21 Tells us that unbelievers are wrong when they see themselves as beasts. They believe both have the same fate. Man has no advantage. All go to one place. They don't know anything about the "spirit" v. 21.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 But believers go to heaven

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 you get old eyes grow dim hands shake, we bend over. The teeth don't work so well and fall out. Sleep is difficult Dust to the earth and the spirit to God

[WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE TEACH CONCERNING THE SOUL?](#)

[COUNTERACTING THE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION WITH THE TEACHING OF THE IMAGE OF GOD](#)

[Spark of Life](#)

Background:

[Counteracting the teaching of evolution with the teaching of the image of God](#) David Lau JOT

"Sometimes it is stated as a difference between man and beast that man has a soul and a beast does not. But here we have to be careful lest in our doctrinal statements we go beyond the express words of Scripture. The King James Version in Genesis 1 and 2 introduces the word "soul" for the first time in Genesis 2:7 in connection with God's creation of man. "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." It would seem then that "soul" here is something that distinguishes man from the other creatures. However, a careful reader of Genesis 1 and 2 in the original Hebrew language recognizes that the words translated "living soul" are nephesh chayyah, and that the identical expression is used of the beasts in Genesis 1:20-21 and Genesis 1:24. "Let the earth bring forth the living creature (nephesh chayyah נפש חיה)." Likewise "the breath of life" in Genesis 2:7 is an expression that in almost identical terms is used of the animals and man in Genesis 7:22: "All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died." On this matter H. C. Leupold says: "Not this breath itself but the manner of its impartation indicates man's dignity. So also the claim that man became 'a living being,' or literally, 'a living soul,' (A. V.) does not point to the distinguishing glory of man. For the same expression is used of other animate beings in 1:24. It must be remembered that the author is at this point chiefly reporting the fact that this lifeless clay became animate by the breath of the Almighty. The fact that man is a superior being is indicated by the manner in which this is done, and this was already amply indicated before by the divine 'image' (1:26)"

We know then what we should do and how important it is that we do it. But perhaps some practical suggestions as to how this can be done will be welcomed. We are thinking particularly of the Sunday School situation.

The creation account (Genesis 1), of course, gives us our first opportunity to impress on our students the importance of the image of God. The beasts of the earth, although created also on the sixth day, were not made in God's image. But human beings, both the man and the woman, were made in God's image. The Advanced Bible History explains:

"Different from other visible creatures; resembling God: rational, knowing God, righteous, holy." We have not used the word "rational" in defining God's image because the Bible does not so define it. Nevertheless, the scientific study of nature as carried out by Adam surely indicated to him as to us a difference in mental capacity and reasoning power between Adam and the other creatures. Compare animals and man with regard to such matters as speech and prayer and planning for the future and remembering the past. Hurlbut's Story of the Bible introduces man's standing up on two legs as a characteristic that makes him different from the animals. Surely it is better to stick with God's explanation of the image of God.

The account of man and Paradise (Genesis 2) also gives us an opportunity to speak of the image of God. There was no companion for Adam among the animals. But Eve, made in God's image from Adam, was a fitting companion. Of course we teach these Genesis accounts as true history, not as legends or myths or as truth-teaching fables. By listing Adam in

Luke 3 as an ancestor of our Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit has certainly made it clear that Adam and Eve truly were actual persons living on this earth at a definite time and in a definite place.

Jehovah vertically

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**Image of God in His likeness:** Ephesians 4:24 and Colossians 3:10

👉 **Holiness answers the question:**

*Do I belong to God and reflect His character?*

👉 **Righteousness answers the question:**

*Am I right before God according to His Law?*

👉 **Knowledge answers the question:**

*“What is true about God and His will?”*

Or more personally:

*“Do I understand who God is and what He has revealed?”*

You must **know** the truth,  
be declared **righteous** by faith,  
and then grow in **holiness** of life.

Gen 1. “us make” **na-‘ă-śeh** v 26 “he created” **bā-rā** v 27

Gen 2. “Formed” **way-yî-ṣer** v 7

“Breathed” **ay-yip-paḥ** “Breath” **niš-maṭ** “life” **ḥay-yîm** “living” **ḥay-yāh**. “Being” **lō-ne-ḡeš**

NKJV 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 **being**.

KJV 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**.

EHV The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground<sup>[a]</sup> and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living **being**.

But in Gen 1:24

NKJV Then God said, “Let the **earth bring forth** the living **creature** according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind”; and it was so.

KJV And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living **creature** after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

EHV God said, “Let the earth produce living **creatures** according to their own kind, livestock,<sup>[a]</sup> creeping things, and wild animals according to their own kind,” and it was so.

- Why can we use a different translation for the same words?

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In **Lutheran theology**, the Church consistently teaches a **two-part (dichotomous) understanding of human nature—body and soul—and explicitly rejects a three-part (trichotomous) view** (body, soul, spirit). This position is grounded in **Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and Luther’s own writings**.

## 1. Body

- **Definition:** The physical part of a person; the tangible, material aspect.
- **Biblical Role:**
  - The body interacts with the physical world through the five senses (sight, touch, taste, hearing, and smell).
  - It is described as a “temple” of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- **Characteristics:**
  - Mortal and perishable (subject to aging, illness, and death).
  - Will be resurrected and glorified for believers in eternity (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).
- **Example:** The body is what enables us to act, move, and experience the world physically.

James 2:26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

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2. Soul man is a soul or being. It doesn’t say God gave man a soul. It says he became a living being/soul. Gen 2:7 “Living being” NKJV Nephish

## Chayah is the same in Gen 1:21 “Living thing” and v 24 “Living creature” NKJV

- Definition: The immaterial part of a person that includes emotions, intellect, and will. It is often seen as the “self” or personality.
  - Biblical Role:
    - The soul is the seat of decision-making, desires, and feelings.
    - It can be influenced by both the spirit and the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17).
  - Characteristics:
    - Represents the person’s individuality and unique identity.
    - Eternal, meaning it does not cease to exist after death.
  - Example: The soul allows us to think, feel love or sadness, and make choices.
  - Matthew 10:28
  - Genesis 2:7
  - JOT from Gesenius 1. Breath 2. Life 3. Rational Soul 4. Living organism
  - breath of the spirit of life Genesis 7: 22 [niš-maṭ-rū-aḥ rū-aḥ](#) the EHV breathed the breath of life.
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### 3. Spirit God does relate to man or not 1 Peter 3:19

- This Spirit relates to the image of God or in the likeness of God
- Definition: The innermost part of a person that connects with God RUACH
- Biblical Role:
  - The spirit is the part of us that communes with God and responds to the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16).
  - It is made alive when a person is “born again” through faith in Christ (John 3:6).
- Characteristics:
  - God-consciousness: Allows humans to worship, pray, and have spiritual awareness.
  - Eternal: Like the soul, it exists beyond physical death.
  - Ecclesiastes 12:7 “the dust shall return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
- Example: The spirit allows us to seek God, experience His presence, and live a life of faith.
- What’s theologically wrong with trichotomy?
  - It tends to:
  - Divide the unity of the person
  - Create speculative metaphysics

- Complicate original sin
- Risk spiritual elitism
- Go beyond what Scripture clearly teaches
- The issue is not the vocabulary of “spirit.”
- The issue is turning descriptive language into ontological structure.

**Formula of Concord – Solid Declaration**

The clearest confessional rejection of trichotomy:

*“We believe, teach, and confess that man consists of **two essential parts, namely, body and soul.**”*  
**(FC SD I.4)**

Spirit is the soul’s relation to God.

**Key Differences**

Aspect I Thes. 5:23 Cf Mark 12:30 Includes CARDIAS and ISCHYOS	Body Leib korp	Soul Seele lebendingen	Spirit Geist Odem	Life Leben	You
Hebrew word	Uses words like flesh or corpse. No similar word	NEPHESH 5315 NSHAMAH 5397 Only God and Man, never animals Gen 7:22 Gen 2:7 Job 33:4	RUACH 7307	CHAIM	
Other translation		Soul, life, self, person, heart, creature, mind, living being	wind, breath, exhalation, life, anger, unsubstantiality, a region of the sky, spirit	Life	

Greek word	SOMA 4983	PSYCHE 5590	PNEUMA 4151 in NT never used of animals	ZOE 2222 BIOS	SU ZOE 2222
Other Translation	flesh; the body of the Church	life, self, inner being	wind, breath		life, both of physical (present) and of spiritual (particularly future) existence.
Nature	Physical	Emotional/Intellectual	Spiritual		Combination
Function	Relates to the material world	Relates to thoughts and emotions	Relates to God and eternity		
Focus	Earthly survival	Self-awareness	God-awareness		
Eternal?	No (perishable) But will be remade at the judgment.	Yes (eternal)	Yes (eternal)		

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### Biblical Illustrations

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:23: "May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
  - o This verse clearly distinguishes the three parts of a person.
2. Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow."
  - o This suggests the soul and spirit are distinct, though closely connected. EHV says since the items can't be divided, it shows how powerful God's word is at DISCERNMENT.

2 Cor. 12:2-3 Whether in the body or out of the body I can't tell. "Thereby he sets forth the possibility that the I, the real person, the soul (spirit) of man, can very well be outside of the body...So he must have been able to hear and see, to notice things irrespective of his being in the body or not...."

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## Animals vs. Man

The primary distinction lies in scope and spiritual hierarchy:

- *Nephesch Chaja* denotes the general life force and physical vitality shared by all living creatures.
- *Neschamah Chajim* denotes the uniquely human intellectual and spiritual capacity, the divine "breath" that elevates the human soul to a higher plane of existence and awareness.
- Neshamah chajim is the divine breath that gives life; nephesh chaja is the living being that results from that breath.

Being	Man	Beast Fowls Creeping things
Origin	Formed by God	directly from earth or water
type of existence	neschamah chajim life apart from body	Nephesh chaja life only in the body
Image of God Gen 1:26 Col 3:10 spiritual knowledge Eph 4:24 righteousness and holiness Gen 2:19-23 Eternal life	Yes  Matt 10:28	No
Help helper Support EZER 5828	EZER KENEGDOW helper suitable Gen 2:18	LO EZER KENEGDOW no helper suitable Gen 2:20
Food Gen 1:29-30	Herbs	Herbs
After Flood Gen 9:3,6	not kill	kills n
Curse James 3:9-10	No	Yes
Dust Ec 3:18-20	Yes	Yes
Up or down Ec. 3:21 Ec 12:7	Up	Down
Living Soul Chayyah Nephesh Gen 7:22	Yes Gen 2:7	Yes Gen 1:21
Reason	NOEO 3539 Think understand conceive apprehend realize Rom 1:20	PHYSIKA 5446 instinctual ALOGA 249 Irrational 2 Peter 2:12
Image of God Gen 1:26	Yes	No
Ps 104:29 Die	yes	Yes

[Helper Suitable](#)