

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-7

Sunday, September 16, 2018

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why did God create people in the image and likeness of God?

“So that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground; to fill the earth and subdue it.”

2. What abilities or qualities do you think God gave people?

The ability to think, the five senses, the ability to know and love God, the power to use our bodies, the ability to love God and one another, the ability to increase and fill the earth, the ability to make choices, the ability to create from the materials God created, the ability to rule or govern, ability to grow in wisdom and understanding, the ability to make plans, set goals, and look toward the future, the ability to evaluate work, the ability to please

God and bless others, and the abilities and qualities of God in finite miniature.

3. What were animals and people to eat on the earth? Why do you think God gave them this food?

“Every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it.” For their nourishment and so they would not eat their companions (the fish, birds, animals, reptiles, or one another). Then, animals and people would not be afraid of becoming food for others.

4. On the sixth day, how did God describe everything He had created? Why might this be important for people to know?

At the end of the sixth day, God said everything He had created was VERY GOOD. So we would know that God created animals and people very good, and any choices people might make later were not because of the way God created the first male and female. God is not responsible for the fact that people sometimes make wrong choices and sin.

5. Name at least two ways the first man differed from the animals.

God created the first man in His image and likeness. God commanded the land to bring forth the animals, but God personally formed the first man from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him.

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