

Created in the Image of God/Woman's Worth GO EquipHer

Knowledge Attitude Practice *After working through this lesson, participants will be able to:*

1. Explain that God created every person in His image.
2. Describe how God uniquely creates each person according to His will and purposes.
3. Tell how every person created in the image of God, including persons with disabilities, has value, worth and dignity.
4. Be assured of God's perspective of womanhood as capable, intelligent, resourceful, and compassionate.

Overview This lesson is part of Women's Cycle of Life. It is of great importance that women have a clear understanding that all people (women, men, people with physical and mental disabilities, everyone) are made in the image of God and that they have value and worth.

Materials *Collect these items before beginning the lesson:*

- Poster-size paper, markers, and masking tape
- Starter: Role play: It's Not Fair
- Handout: *One New Life from Two, Embryo Development*
- Bible or copies of verses needed for lessons

LESSON

60 minutes

STARTER: It's Not Fair (5 min)

Use the attached role play: "It's Not Fair!"

Ask SHOWD Questions:

What did you See?

What was Happening?

Does this happen in Our place?

Why does this happen?

What will we Do about it?

Many communities and people believe that boys are more important than girls.

Ask the large group what community and culture believes regarding the purpose and value of women.

1. *A wife is the husband's property*
2. *Women are second class citizens*
3. *A woman's worth is defined by her husband*
4. *Responsible for making a man happy*
5. *To bear and raise the children*
6. *To take care of all the needs of the household*

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Women's IDMM

I. Created in God's Image (5 min)

Read Genesis 1:26-27 and discuss as a large group.

A. What does it mean to be created by God and bear God's image?

All men and women are created by God and are like Him in many ways.

B. What characteristics do we have in common with God?

1. We know right from wrong.
2. We can talk to each other and to God.
3. We have emotions.
4. We can ask questions.
5. We can solve problems.
6. We can think logically.
7. We seek to be in relationship with others and with God.
8. We seek to love and be loved.
9. We desire unity and peace.
10. We desire to know others and be known by them.

II. We are Created as Unique Human Beings (10 min)

Read Psalm 139:13-16.

A. Who creates each person in a mother's womb?

God wonderfully creates each person in a mother's womb. He decides and chooses every detail of our living being before we are born.

B. How does God create each person in a mother's womb?

Read Matthew 19:4-5. Use the One New Life from Two and Embryo Development handouts here.

1. *Life begins* in the womb. God himself oversees the development of each child before delivery.
2. At conception the genetic material from the father's sperm and the mother's egg are woven together and unite to create a new, unique person.
3. Genes are genetic material.
4. Genes contain codes which hold detailed plans for the baby, making him or her special and unique.
5. Genes determine many things about people, including if it's a boy or girl baby. The father's sperm provides the gene that determines the sex of the baby.

C. When does God first know us?

Jeremiah 1:5

God knows us even before we are formed in our mother's womb

D. Does God make us all the same? How does God make use of our differences?

Romans 12:4-8, Exodus 4:10-12

1. No, we are not the same. God makes each person unique for His purposes.
2. God's plan is perfect even if a child is born with a physical or mental disability.

III. The Value, Worth, and Purpose of Every Human Being (20 min)

Divide into 5 small groups. Give each group one of the following (A-E) to discuss the value, worth, and purpose of every human being, whatever their gender. Report back to the group.

A. Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 3:1:

How can we know that God loves and values every human being that He created?

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1. Jesus, God's son, paid the price for the sin of human beings He created with his death.
2. Every person is of great value to God

B. Ephesians 1:4-6:

1. **When did God first know us and choose to love us?**
Before the creation of the world and before we were born.
2. **Why did God choose to adopt us as his children and make us blameless through the blood of Christ?**
Because it pleased Him to love us, not because of how perfect we are physically or mentally or because of what say or do or have.

C. Ephesians 2:10:

Who are we according to God, and what is His purpose for us?

1. We are God's workmanship.
2. We are created in Jesus Christ to do good work.
3. God prepares our work before we do it.

D. Galatians 3:26-28:

Even though we are all different, how does God view our worth?

We are all equal in Christ. God views us the same way He views Christ.

E. John 3:16:

Who does God say that He loves?

1. God loves the world and every person in it, male and female, sick or well, rich or poor, child or adult.
2. God's love gives equal value, dignity and worth to every person.
3. Each person is made in God's image.
4. Each person may receive the gift of eternal life by believing in Jesus Christ

INCLUDE EZER KENEGDO HERE

IV. Value of Women in God's Economy (20 min)

Read Genesis 2:18-25. In a large group, discuss the following:

A. What does the "garden story" teach us about the value of women in God's estimation?

1. Both man and woman were created in His image, and it was VERY good.
2. She is intelligent, able to work and care for the garden.
3. God has an intimate relationship with women, not second-hand under men. She is loved and cared for.

B. What does a "suitable helper" mean?

1. Women as "suitable helpers" - the same word is used for "God is my helper" (Psalm 54:4, 30:10, 10:14)
2. Means to aid, strengthen, someone with skills or strengths the other lacks.

V. In what ways can women be valuable in our culture? (15 min)

In a large group, make a list of the following:

A. Spiritually:

1. Character of women is to nurture and demonstrate fruits of the Spirit.
2. Often, they have a very close relationship to God.
3. Women often lead the families spiritually.
4. Committed to prayer, intercessors

B. Physically:

1. Hard workers
2. Deny self for their families

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3. Keep the home together
4. They bear and care for children

C. Emotionally

1. Able to show emotions
2. Caring, gentle, nurturing
3. Very reliable

D. Mentally

1. Great teachers, doctors, scientific jobs
2. In every way equal to men mentally.

E. Socially

1. Good at interaction with others
2. Communication
3. Sociability
4. Hospitality

VI. God's Perspective – A Woman of Strength and Worth (20 min)

Break into five groups. Assign each group one of the five categories discussed above (spiritual, emotional, etc.)

Have each group read Proverbs 31:10-31

Each group will report back to the large group what they discovered about God's perspective on a woman's strength and worth, regarding their assigned category.

Proverbs 31: A Woman of Strength and Worth: What does God say about this woman's strengths?

A. Mental strengths

1. Able to assess good investments
2. Budgets her earnings
3. Starts a business
4. Watches for bargains
5. Carefully watches household so none are lazy

B. Emotional Strengths

1. Knows her worth (more than rubies)
2. Supports her husband (doesn't put him down)
3. Self-image of strength and dignity
4. Seen as wise and kind

C. Spiritual strengths

1. Gives her heart to the poor and needy
2. Has no fear of the future
3. Kindness is her rule
4. She fears God

D. Social Strengths

1. Trusted by husband
2. Enriches his life
3. Helps those in need
4. Well-clothed
5. Husband is respected
6. Husband praises her
7. Children bless her

E. Physical Strengths

1. Works with her hands to provide food and clothing for her family

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2. Hard worker, energetic, up dawn to late evening
3. Provides warm blankets for sleeping
4. Sells products that she makes

Return to large group and share conclusions.

1. **How does God view her?**
2. **How does she view herself?**
3. **How do others view her?**
4. **Wholistic health is harmony with God, Self, Others and the Environment**
(can use handout "Good Health is Harmony With").
5. **Is this woman healthy?**

Conclusions (Optional) (5 min)

Statement/Prayer: God created women in His image, and He treasures them. Women reflect God's image in ways that are different from men. The woman in Proverbs 31 was an ideal wife of noble character, fit for a king. The proverb was not meant to discourage women by this woman's excellence but exhibit the capability that women can have. She reflects God as she confidently cares for her household and for others in her community.

Discuss together.

- A. **What did you discover in this lesson?**
- B. **What new things did you learn about your community?**
- C. **Who could you share it with?**
- D. **What will you do with what you discovered in this lesson?**
 1. **When?**
 2. **What do you expect to happen?**
 3. **How will you know if it happened?**
- E. **Pray together.**

References:

Bible (NIV)

UNICEF

https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/human-fertilisation-embryonic-development-humannfograph_24080954.htm#query=embryo%20development&position=27&from_view=keyword

Option 1 (From Created in the Image of God)

STARTER Role play: **It's Not Fair!**

Girl talking to her mother while sweeping on the floor.

Daughter: I don't know why God made me to be a girl. Girls are not very important.

Mom: Well, God knows best.

Daughter: But it is not fair that boys are more important than girls. Even when we grow up, we're less important. I don't understand!!! We make the babies and all the food. How can we be less important?

Mom: That's just the way it is! God made it like that.

Daughter: Well, it's not fair that God loves boys more than girls.

OPTION 2 (From A Woman's Worth)

STARTER: Role Play: **It's a Boy!**

This role play involves 3 people: pregnant woman in labor, friend of woman, and husband who is available by phone.

1st scene- Pregnant woman and friend go to the hospital for delivery.

Friend excitedly calls husband to report the birth of a healthy baby girl.

Husband answers and says, "Another girl? I'm going back to work. Tell her I'll see her when she gets home."

2nd scene-3 years later...Pregnant woman and same friend go to the hospital for delivery. Friend calls the husband excitedly to report the birth of a healthy boy.

Husband answers and shouts for joy. He says, "I'll be right over, I'm calling a taxi! We'll have to arrange a party!"

A WOMAN OF NOBLE CHARACTER

Proverbs 31:10-31

Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is worth more than precious rubies. Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. She will not hinder him but help him all her life. She finds wool and flax and busily spins it. She is like a merchant's ship; she brings her food from afar. She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plans the day's work for her servant girls.

She goes out to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. She watches for bargains; her lights burn late into the night. Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber.

She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy. She has no fear of winter for her household because all of them have warm clothes. She quilts her own bedspreads. She dresses like royalty in gowns of finest cloth.

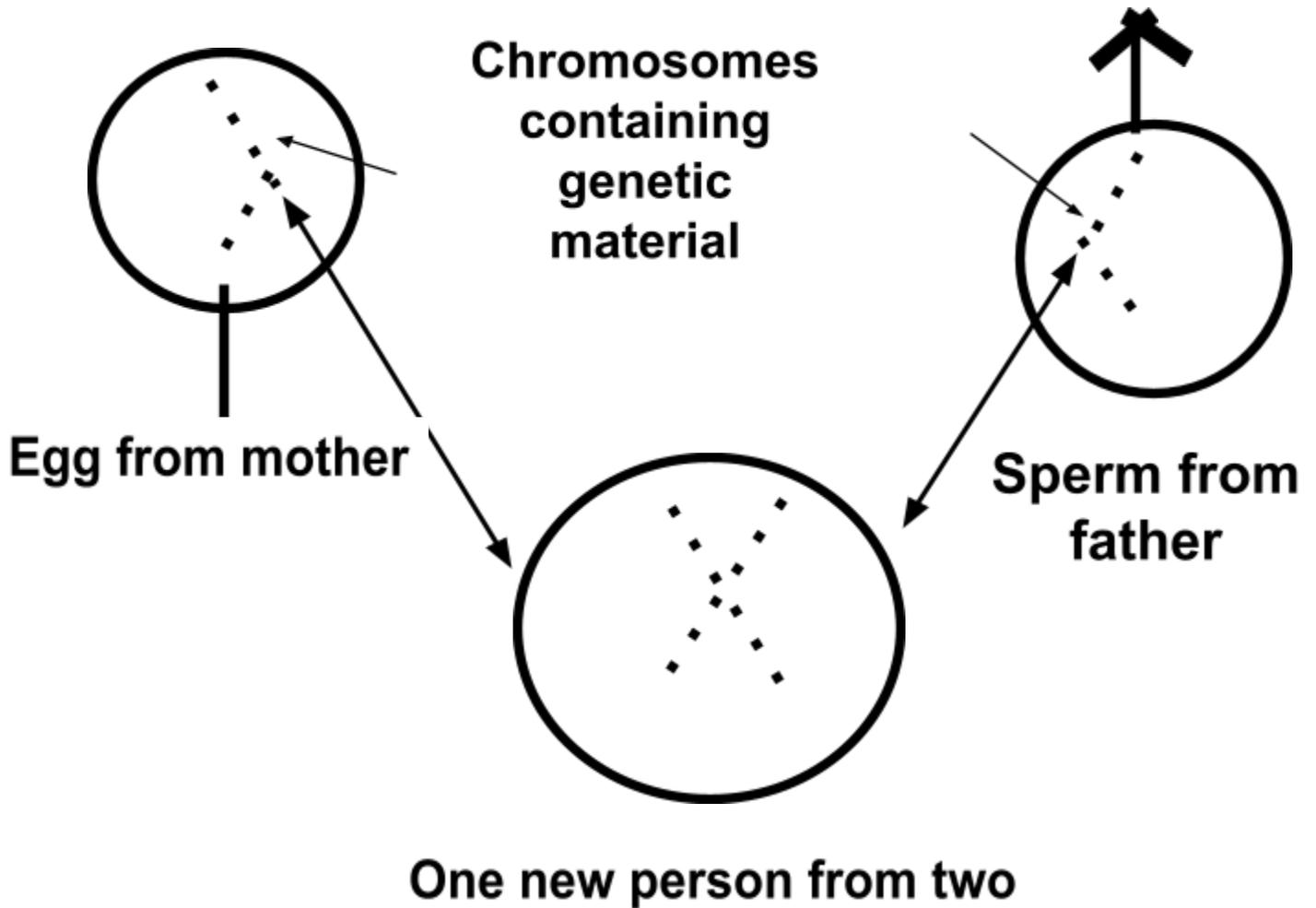
Her husband is well known, for he sits in the council meeting with the other civic leaders. She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs with no fear of the future.

When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule when she gives instructions. She carefully watches all that goes on in her household and does not have to bear the consequences of laziness.

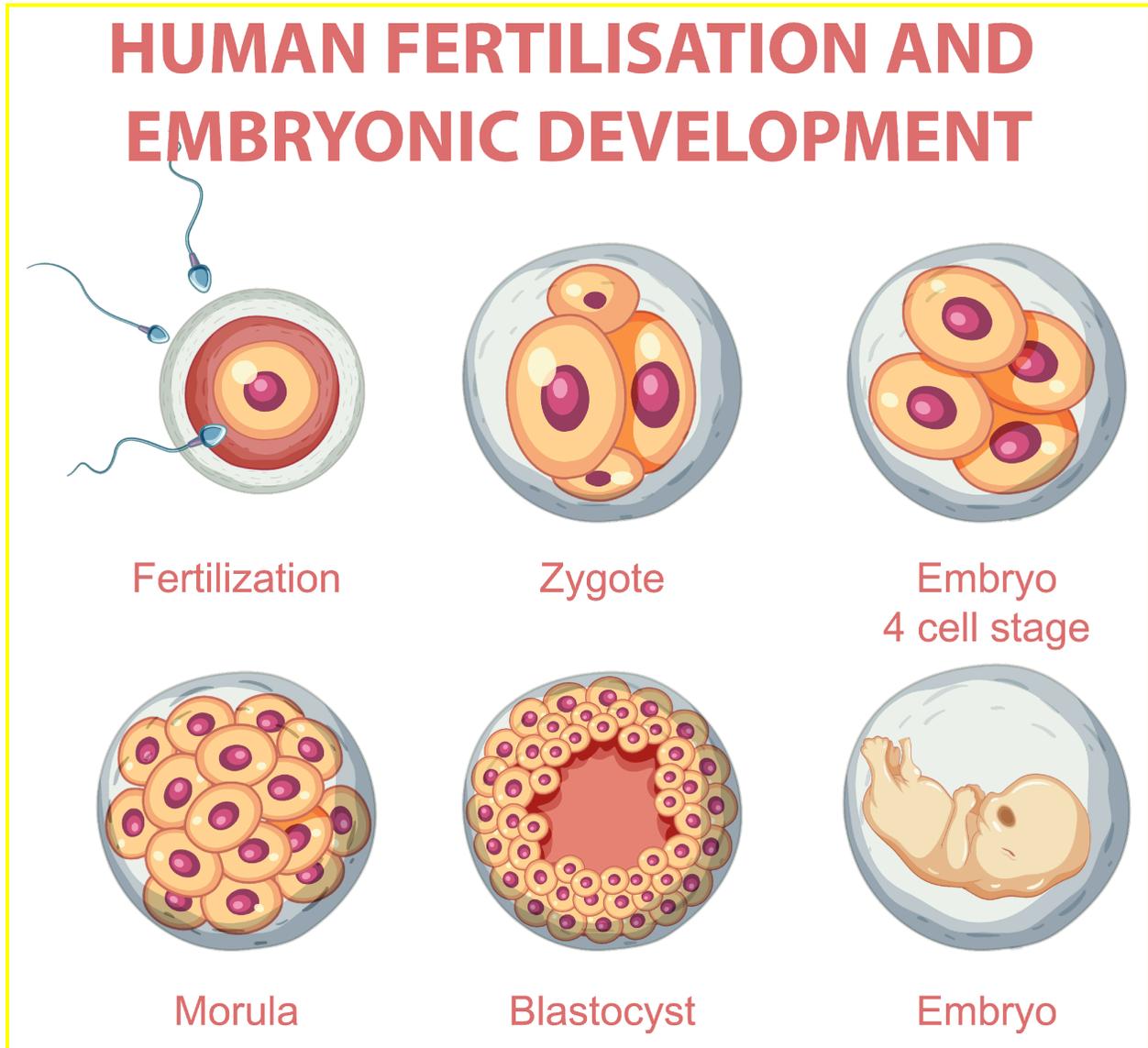
Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her; "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!" Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears God will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

One New Person from Two

The egg and the sperm each have a set of instructions (chromosomes) from the parents on how the baby is to be created. This includes things such as baby's hair color, eyes, gender, and all the other features that make up each unique person.



Embryo Development



UNICEF

https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/human-fertilisation-embryonic-development-human-infograph_24080954.htm#query=embryo%20development&position=27&from_view=keyword