



Lesson 1 ~ Elohim – Mighty Creator

Genesis 1:1-2:3

♥ Heart Talk

When you meet with your small group, share something about your experience of being silent before God for 5 minutes (below). Was it difficult? Easy? Helpful? Do you see any value in this exercise?

Introduction

The Hebrew word *Elohim* is usually translated "God" in English and is the first name for God used in the Bible – *In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)*. The *El* in *Elohim* means "mighty" or "strong" and *Elohim* carries the idea of an all-powerful, unlimited, creative power, thus the name **Mighty Creator**. It is also exciting to note that the "*him*" ending of *Elohim* is in the plural form in Hebrew, indicating more than one. Yet *Elohim* is always

used with *singular verbs* throughout Scripture which indicates only one. So we see that *Elohim, Mighty Creator*, carries the idea of **more than one person**, yet only **one being**. So, even in this first name for God used in the Bible, we have a hint of the triune God: Father, Son and Spirit. All the Godhead were present and active at the creation of not only the heavens and the earth, but also the creation of each one of us! This name of God occurs 35 times in just the first chapter of Genesis.

♥ Heart Preparation

Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10). *The Message* paraphrases this verse as, *Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God*. In these lessons on the **Names of God**, we want to discover and experience the **goodness** of God as revealed in his Old Testament names. But to do that, we need to learn to **be still – to step out of the traffic** – so that we can receive what God has for us. God cannot show himself to us when we are living fast-paced lives that include little **quietness** or **silence**. By learning to be still before God, even for very short period of time, we make space to see, hear and experience God's goodness to us.

Before you begin this lesson, **try to sit quietly before God, in silence, for 5 minutes**, as you turn your heart and soul to him. **Don't try to accomplish anything other than just being quiet before God**. (It might be helpful to set a timer so you can focus on God and not the passing of time.) If your mind wanders, gently bring it back to focus on God. It might help for you to occasionally repeat in your mind a phrase like, *Here I am, Lord or I belong to you, God or I open myself to you, Jesus*. This exercise may be difficult for you at first, but it becomes easier to do with practice and you will prepare your heart and mind to hear what God wants to say to you as you work through this lesson. **Try it – you'll like it!**

Jesus' Encouraging Words to You . . .

Focus your entire being on My living Presence. I am most assuredly with you, enveloping you in My Love and Peace. While you relax in My Presence, I am molding your mind and cleansing your heart. I am recreating you into the one I designed you to be . . .

Jesus Calling (November 10) by Sarah Young

A Prayer to Help Prepare Your Heart

*Open my eyes, that I may see, glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee; ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine.*

Clara H. Scott (1841-1897)

Questions

ELOHIM CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH . . .

The Creation story found in Genesis may be a familiar portion of Scripture to you, but our purpose in studying it is to discover all that we can about *Elohim* – *Mighty Creator* – and to ask the question, "Why does God want us to know that he is the *Mighty Creator*?"

Read **Genesis 1:1-25** in your Bible or from the Scripture handout. As you read, circle each occurrence of the word **God** (*Elohim*). You may want to substitute *Mighty Creator* for God as you read.

Create – the Hebrew word *bara* which is a verb that means an action by which something that has not existed before is brought into being. In Scripture, this Hebrew word for **create** is used only of God's activity. **Hebrews 11:3** further tells us that the visible universe was **created** by God's command from "nothing" or *that which is not visible*.

1. **Genesis 1:1** is the summary statement for the Creation story. Along with **Isaiah 45:18**, list everything you learn about God or that is inferred about God in these verses.

 - ♥ Is it important to you to know that God created the heavens and the earth? Why or why not?
 - ♥ What is the significance of God creating all that is seen from "nothing" or that which is not visible?
 - ♥ Why is it helpful to know the "the beginning" of something? Why does *Mighty Creator* want us to know *the beginning*? A *beginning* infers an *ending*. Why would God also want us to know the *ending*?
2. As we pick up the creation narrative in **Genesis 1:2**, what has already been created, in what condition do we find it and who is present?

 - ♥ What similar images do you see in **Genesis 1:2** and **Deuteronomy 32:9-12**? What do you think is the purpose of *hovering*? What is the Spirit waiting to do (**Job 33:4**)? What do these images speak to you about God and your relationship to him?
3. From **Genesis 1:3-25**, list any words and phrases that you find repeated.

 - ♥ What do you learn about God's **power** and **authority** in the repeated phrases, "*God said*" and "*it was so*"? What makes God's **power** and **authority** different from any other **power** or **authority** that exists?
4. What link do you see between the phrase, "*Then God said . . .*" and **John 1:1-3**?

 - ♥ What does this suggest about the power and authority of God's Word? What *power* does God's Word have in your life? What *authority*?

- ♥ Is marriage a human institution or a divine institution? Why is this an important distinction and what difference does it make?
- ♥ Besides marriage, what other significance do you see in the statement that God created humans in his own image, *male and female he created them*?
- ♥ What are some specific ways that you can fulfill and implement God's blessing given in **1:28**? What are some things that we are prohibited from doing because of this blessing?
- ♥ To whom does creation belong (**Psalm 24:1-2; 89:11**). Why is this significant?

ELOHIM CREATED YOU . . .

9. From the verses below, what do you learn about Elohim's creation of you? Write your answers in the first person as if you were speaking to God (You, I, me, etc.).

Jeremiah 1:5	
Psalm 139:13-16	
Psalm 100:3	
Acts 17:24-26	
Ephesians 1:4; 2:10	

- ♥ What truths do these verses convey to you, regardless the circumstances of your birth?
 - ♥ Why does God wants us to know these facts about our creation? What difference does it make?
10. In the space below, write out **Revelation 4:11**. Considering all you have learned in this lesson, how would you answer the question, "Why does God want *me* to know that he is *Elohim, Mighty Creator*?"

- ♥ How does it make you feel when you have created something special or completed a big project? God made the seventh day of creation different from the other days of creation (**2:1-3**). What implications does this have for us today, if any? How would you define rest? What do you find restful?

♥ Heart Therapy

SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME WITH ELOHIM, YOUR MIGHTY CREATOR. . .

Knowing *about* God is not the same as *knowing* God and so it is important that we apply what we have learned about God and make it real in our lives. **Romans 1:20** tells us that creation reveals God's **eternal power** and **divine nature**. Nature is a wonderful way to meet God and experience his Presence.

Take a walk outside this week, looking for the *goodness* and *loveliness* in God's creation. When some scene, image or object captures your attention with its beauty, thank God that the world he created is good and beautiful. Carefully observe what has captured your attention. What does it reveal about God? How does it help you know and understand God better?

True friends speak *and* listen to each other. Ask *Mighty Creator* to speak to you through his creation. Be still and wait for God to communicate. He may fill you with wonder or some other emotion, give you a picture or image in your imagination, bring a Scripture to mind or speak some specific words to your heart and soul. What do you "hear" God saying to you? Write down your experience so you don't forget!