



The earth starts formless and empty. God forms it and fills it, establishing his kingdom on earth. God makes people in his image to act like him, to expand his kingdom. The earth is perfect but not finished. The plan is a worldwide kingdom, everywhere for everyone.

## Video Summary

God creates everything. The earth begins formless and empty. First, God forms it. He tames the wild and orders the chaos; he creates form, structure and beauty. Next, he fills it. He creates life, energy and potential. God is presented as a powerful king establishing his kingdom on earth.

God makes humans in his image, to reflect him, represent him and act like him. Our role is to form and fill the earth, to establish God's kingdom on earth. We form the world through activities like farming, building and manufacturing. We fill the world with families, communities and culture.

God plants a garden. It is a miniature version of God's kingdom, a miniature heaven on earth. There are two trees in the Garden which show what it means to live with God as king, in his kingdom, under his rule.

The Tree of Life symbolises enjoying the benefits of God's rule. They can eat from it. Connection and closeness to God brings wholeness, harmony and life as it's supposed to be. This flows into a healthy relationship with ourselves (how we think and feel about ourselves) and healthy relationships with others (how we relate to and interact with them).

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil symbolises fulfilling the responsibilities of God's rule. They mustn't eat from it. This means accepting his definition of good and evil, living life in the way he's defined, and following his instruction and direction.

The earth is perfect but not finished. God wants people to expand and spread the Garden to the world. The plan is for a worldwide kingdom everywhere for everyone.

## **Discussion Questions**

- 1** God made humans in his image, to act like him by forming (e.g. farming, building and manufacturing) and filling (e.g. with families, communities and culture). In what other ways do people form the world and fill the world?
- 2** How could this understanding of the role God gives humans change the way you see yourself and your everyday life? How could it change the way you see others?
- 3** In the Garden the man and woman had life as it's supposed to be: wholeness and harmony. If this was the reality we lived in, what would there be more of and what would there be less of?
- 4** God could have created the earth as perfect and finished but he chose not to. What does that show you about God? What does that show you about the role he gives humans?
- 5** Expanding and spreading God's kingdom is a fundamentally human activity, not a merely religious activity. What happens when we reduce it to a merely religious activity? What happens when we grasp it is a fundamentally human activity?

## **Bible Passages for Further Study**

**Genesis 1** — God creates the world and humans in his image



**Genesis 2** — God plants a garden with two trees, a miniature kingdom