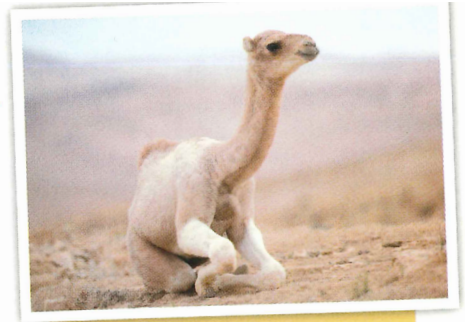


PERFECTLY PLANNED AND CREATED

Lord, you are our father. We are like clay, and you are the potter. Your hands made us all.

—ISAIAH 64:8

There are some pretty interesting—really weird—animals in God’s creation. One of them is the camel. With its thick, bushy eyebrows, long eyelashes, hump on its back, and big, floppy feet, the camel is not exactly the world’s cutest creature. But everything about it was perfectly planned and created by God to help the camel live in the desert.



BE AMAZED

Baby camels are born without any humps at all. Camels with one hump are called Arabian (or dromedary) camels. They live in the Middle East. Camels with two humps are called Asian (or Bactrian) camels. They live only in China and Mongolia.

That big hump? Most people think it stores water, but it actually stores fat. That big hump of fat lets the camel go up to a week without drinking water during the summer, and it can go even longer without eating. You know how? The camel can burn the fat in its hump for both energy and water. So what about those bushy eyebrows and long eyelashes? They keep out the desert sand. Camels can even close their nostrils to keep out the sand. And those big, floppy feet? They’re perfect for traveling long distances on shifting sands.

Yes, camels were perfectly planned and created to live in the desert. Just as fish were perfectly created to live in water, birds were perfectly created to fly, and monkeys were perfectly created to swing through the trees. And you were perfectly created to be . . . you. Just as a potter shapes the clay into the vessel she wants to make, God made you *with* a plan and *for* a purpose—to love Him and to love others. And He gave you special talents and abilities so you could live out His purpose for you—in a uniquely *you* kind of way that no one else can do. God is the perfect Creator, and He created you according to His perfect plan!

Lord, I know I am Your creation, and You designed me just the way You wanted me to be. Please show me the talents You’ve given me, and help me use them in ways that make You smile and help others see You.