

GOD MAKES HIS CHILDREN A REFLECTION OF HIM

STORY: CREATION / YEAR: VALUE

BIG TRUTH: GOD MAKES HIS CHILDREN A REFLECTION OF HIM

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 24:1-2; 104:24; Isaiah 43:4; 49:15; Zephaniah 3:17; Matthew 6:26, 30-34; Luke 12:4-7, 24; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:1; 4:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 2:9

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

BIG IDEAS

- God made us in His image to be a reflection of Him.
- God made us in His image so others can see that He is life.
- God made us in His image to reflect His worth.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 5:13-16

Jesus continues His sermon on the mount in this passage and He reminds His listeners that those who are followers of Him are to be salt in this world. Salt is used to flavor food so the food tastes better. The followers of Christ are to be like salt in this world - they should enhance the lives of those around them. Those who follow Christ are set apart; they are different from the rest of the world and they are to be light in the darkness pointing people to Christ.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God created man and woman in His image



Every child should feel:

- Unique among all creation as an image bearer



Every child should:

- Respect other people as image bearers



Every child should want:

- To be holy and reflect God's image well

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Those who are followers of Christ are His chosen ones. They are lights in the dark world and are called to be the salt of the earth. Christ's followers are to be a reflection of Him so that others see He is the light of the world.

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“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

God’s people reflect Him to the world.

- Those who have repented of their sin and believed in Jesus are His children.
- Those who are God’s chosen people are to continue being a reflection of God even when they are persecuted.
- Those who follow Christ become like Christ daily as they put on the new self and put to death the old self.

Being a reflection of God means being like God.

- Those who follow Christ serve as His chosen people.
- God’s people get to show the world what God is like by being like Him.
- Peter encouraged the Jews to continue being like Jesus.
- The Jews were being persecuted for following Jesus.
- Peter urged them to continue following Christ because they were chosen by God.
- All of Christ’s followers are chosen people.
- God daily makes His people more like Him, to be a reflection of Him.
- He does this so that His people may tell the world of His glory.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 5:13-16

Salt and Light

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several plastic cups and straws for each child. Allow the children to take turns racing each other as they blow a cup across a table with a straw. After each child has had an opportunity to race, lead them in a discussion about how God is our Creator and He controls all things.

- How did you control what the cup did? (Each child controlled the cup by blowing through a straw.)
- Did the cup move on its own or when you blew on it? (It moved only when it was blown on.)
- You each controlled your cups with the straw just like God controls all of creation with His power.
- God is our Creator. He created everything and He controls everything.
- There is nothing that is outside of Him or His power.

GOD MAKES HIS CHILDREN
A REFLECTION OF HIM**BIG IDEA: GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE TO BE A REFLECTION OF HIM.**

What is a reflection? (It is a copy or image of something or someone.)

Every person is created in God's image.

- God is the Creator of all people.
- All people are image bearers of God even if they aren't followers of Christ.
- God created people in His image so they could reflect, or show the world who He is.
- When people, who bear His image, follow Christ, they reflect Christ as they grow more like Him.



Bring in a small mirror. Ask the children to take turns looking in the mirror and describing what they see. Ask the children if what they see in the mirror is a true reflection of them. Tell them that we are created to be reflections of God and we do this by being like Him.

People who follow Christ become like Christ.¹

- When people repent and believe in Jesus, they grow in Him.
- When they grow like Jesus, they reflect Him, and show people what He is like.
- When Jesus gave His sermon on the mount, He told His followers to be lights in the world.
- His people can be lights to the world when they reflect Him to the world.

People can be a reflection when they try to be like Him.

- Every person was created in God's image.
- We were made to reflect God by being like Him.
- When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin entered the world, and it made man's heart sinful.
- Now man's heart doesn't choose to be like God, but those who repent and believe in Jesus are given new life in Him.
- Those who follow Jesus can be a reflection of Him to the world.

Why did God make us in His image? (He made us in His image to reflect Him to the world.)

1. Romans 12:2: When we follow Christ and seek to know Him, we become like Him and can reflect Him to the world.

GOD MAKES HIS CHILDREN A REFLECTION OF HIM

BIG IDEA: GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE SO OTHERS CAN SEE THAT HE IS LIFE.

God gives new life to those who believe.²

- Jesus told His followers to be salt in this world.
- They were to be salt so that they would stand out and be set apart. They were not to be like the world, but to be like Him.
- They were to live as lights in the dark world, pointing people to Him.
- God is life. He creates each person and He gives new life to those with saving faith.
- God made people in His image so others would see Him.
- When people see God in His followers, they learn about Him.
- When they learn about Him, they understand that He is life.
- He gives new life through His Son, Jesus.



Read Colossians 3:1-15 to the children. Help them make a list of new life that God's chosen people can reflect to the world.

God's people let their lights shine in the dark world.

- The light inside of God's people is God.
- When God's people let their lights shine, they let people see how God is making them like Him.
- God made us to reflect Him so people would know Him.
- When we let our lights shine, we reflect God's light to the darkness in the world around us.
- We are to shine in this dark, spiritually dead world, so that others know God is life.
- When we are set apart and different from the sinful world, we show people what real life in Christ is.

When we reflect God to the world, what do we show them He is? (We show them He is life.)

2. John 1:3-4: Jesus is the light of the world. In Him is all life and He gives life to all people.

GOD MAKES HIS CHILDREN A REFLECTION OF HIM

BIG IDEA: GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE TO REFLECT HIS WORTH.

God is the worthiest of all beings.³

- God is the most valuable of all beings because He is the one, true God.
- He made us to reflect this value to the world.
- When we allow our lights to shine, we reflect God's worth.
- Our lights shine when we act, think, and live like Jesus did.
- This means we love people like God loves people.
- We help people like Jesus helped people and when we do, we reflect His worth to the world.
- Being like Jesus is how our lights shine.



Bring in a small container of salt and enough napkins for each child to have one. Pour a little salt on each napkin and ask the children to taste the salt. Ask them to describe what salt tastes like and then talk with them about how salt has a very distinct taste; nothing else tastes like salt. We are to be distinct in this world, also. When we are, we reflect God's worth to the world.

The world sees our good works and can understand God's worth.

- Jesus told His listeners to be salt. They should not lose their saltiness because they lose value if they do.
- When we are salt in the world, we are different from the world, yet we add to it by sharing the way to Christ with them.
- We are showing the world Jesus when we are salt.
- We also influence our world when we are salt because we are being what Jesus was.
- When we try to reflect God rightly, we show the world His worth.
- When we love differently, people can see God's worth.
- When we sacrifice for God, people see His worth.
- God made us to reflect His worth to the world around us.

What does it mean for God's people to be salt? (It means we are set apart and we reflect God to the world.)

3. Psalm 145:3: God is the one, true God. He is the mightiest and greatest being of all.

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HOOKS



God Made Us In His Image to Reflect Him

Bring in a mirror and ask each child to pass the mirror around. Once each child has an opportunity to look in the mirror, ask the children to describe what they saw in the mirror. Once they finish describing themselves, ask them to describe God. Keep a list of their description on the board. Once they finish, ask the children how we can reflect these things about God to the world around us. Help them brainstorm ideas of how to be a reflection of God to the world.



God Made Us To Reflect His Worth

Bring in several different coins, such as a penny, a dime, a nickel, a quarter and a half-dollar if you can find one. Show the coins to the children. Tell them that each coin has a value and the value is on the coin. Give them an opportunity to tell you what each coin's value is. Talk with them about how God made us to reflect His value or worth to the world. Just like the number on the coin reflects its value, we reflect God's.



- How can we reflect God's worth? (When we are like Him, we show the world His worth.)
- We are made to reflect Him to the world and we do this by being like Him.
- This means that we think, act, and love the way He loved.