

# GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE

## THE STORY: CREATION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE

Genesis 5:1; Ephesians 4:24; James 3:9

### BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

### BIG IDEAS

- We have value and worth because God is ultimately valuable.
- We long for companionship because God is a communal being.
- We have purpose because we were created to reflect God to the world.

### BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 1:26-31; 2:4-7

After God created the heavens and the earth, He created man. He created Adam first and then He made Eve, Adam's companion. God created mankind in His own image as a reflection of Himself to the world.

### THE STORY

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father's work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

### BIG AIMS



#### Every student should know that:

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



#### Every student should feel:

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



#### Every student should strive to:

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week

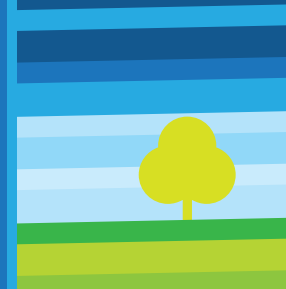


#### Every student should want:

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God's story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

### GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

**BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1:27**

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

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**God created human beings.**

*“So God created man...”*

- God created people differently from the rest of creation. He created the first man, Adam, by forming him from the dust of the ground and breathing air into him. God spoke all of creation into existence, except for man. He created man in a more personal way because of the value He placed upon mankind.
- No person creates himself or herself. Every person is designed by God and given a purpose. Human beings are set apart from the rest of creation and given a special purpose unlike any other purpose that creation has.

**Human beings reflect God’s image.**

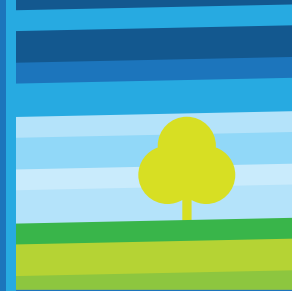
*“in the image of God He created him...”*

- People are God’s image bearers. This means that they reflect Him. Though people are not God and can never become Him, they do reflect His image to the world around them. They are like a mirror to the world, reflecting God the Creator.
- There are aspects of God seen in people. People create because God is the Creator. People desire relationships because God is a relational God. There is a moral compass and desire for justice inside of people because God is holy and just.

**Human beings have implicit value.**

*“in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

- Every person, regardless of their faith in Christ or lack of it, bears God’s image. Bearing God’s image gives people value. We are all created with value because God is valuable and we are made in His image.
- Bearing God’s image gives us implicit value that cannot be taken away. God gave us a unique purpose to bear His image and to bring Him glory in a different way than the rest of creation.



## BIG IDEA #1: WE HAVE VALUE AND WORTH BECAUSE GOD IS ULTIMATELY VALUABLE.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In Genesis 1:26-31, God makes man in His image and likeness. God created man to reflect Himself to the world. Mankind was created in a different way than the rest of creation. When God made man, He breathed air and life into his lungs. God formed man from the dust of the ground and placed His image upon him. By doing this, God placed value and worth upon mankind. To bear God's image is to have great value and worth because God is valuable. There is only one God and to bear His image implies the image-bearer holds great value. Bearing God's image placed man above the rest of creation. God is worthy of all honor and praise and to receive His image is to receive a great honor and privilege.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### How can your attitudes and actions reveal that you understand God's great value?

The Psalms are full of praises to God for His greatness and can help us express God's value. Psalm 95:3 and 145:3 both give examples of attitudes and actions that express an understanding of God's great value. There is no one like God and when we understand that, we will praise Him and worship Him. Deuteronomy 10:17 expresses this truth perfectly.

### [ THIS ]

People have value and worth because God gives us value and worth. Our value and worth are not determined by our accomplishments, actions, or anything from ourselves. Because we are made in God's image and are a reflection of Him, we have intrinsic value and worth. Animals, plants, and organisms do not have the same value to God as people. God purposefully and intentionally set people apart from the rest of creation when He created man in His image. Even those who do not follow Christ have value because they bear the one true God's image. There is nothing we can do to remove the value that God has placed upon us.

### [ THEREFORE ]

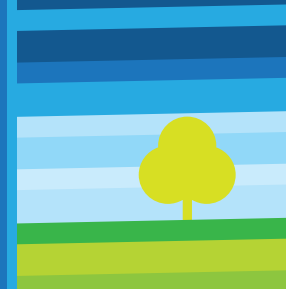
#### How does the knowledge that all humans are God's image-bearers change the way we treat one another?

Jesus taught in John 13:34 that we should love one another just as He has loved us. Recognizing that all people bear God's image helps us love everyone no matter what. 1 John 4:20 shows that it is impossible to love God and hate someone because loving people matters to God and it should matter to those who follow Him. 1 Peter 4:8 shows us the power that love can have when we love others and find value in them.

#### How does knowing that your intrinsic value and worth comes from God help you have a right view of your own life?

In Matthew 6:25-33, Jesus teaches about the value that God places on people. When we understand that God values people above the rest of creation, we understand our value and have a right view of ourselves. Romans 8:1 shows us that for those who have repented of their sins, there is no longer any condemnation. People have great value to God, as John 3:16 shows us. God values people so much, He gave up His only Son for them.

1. Genesis 1:26: God made man in His image and likeness and this gives people great value and worth.



## BIG IDEA #2: WE LONG FOR COMPANIONSHIP BECAUSE GOD IS A COMMUNAL BEING.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Genesis 1:27 reveals to us that we are created for companionship. That God made people as male and female shows us that there is a connectedness that people are intended to have with one another. The creation of two genders reveals God's design for people to live in families and communities. People are meant to be connected to one another and to God. God intended for us to live this life together, to share our good times and bad times with one another. People are not made to live in isolation. God made us dependent upon one another to thrive in this world. We get a sense of who God is when we see the interconnectedness of people. We long for companionship and community because we are created to live in communities.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### How does living in gospel community help us as we seek to live for God?

When we live connected to one another, as a group, we can more fully live for God. Galatians 6:1-2 teaches us what can be the result of living in a community. We don't have to bear our burdens alone. We are encouraged by others to live for Christ. Hebrews 10:24-25 also shows us the value of living in communities and connected to others.

#### How have you seen the lack of a community impact a person's walk with God?

Jeremiah 17:9 teaches us that our hearts are wicked and deceive us. When we do not live in community, we live in danger of following our deceptive heart. 2 Corinthians 11:3 warns of the ways that we can be drawn away when we are left to ourselves. Proverbs 27:17 shows us the value in living in a community because one person can encourage and help another person. When we lack this, we can be drawn away by false teachers and our own wicked thoughts.

### [ THIS ]

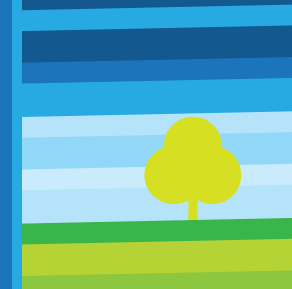
Our longing for companionship is a reflection of God's image on us. God is a relational and communal being. He relates to His people as a Father and places those who follow Him in His family. He lives in perfect relationship within Himself as the triune God. This relational nature is inside of every person because it is part of God's design for mankind. We desire to know others and to be known because that desire has been placed inside of us. The companionship we are truly longing for is a relationship with God. We long to live in relationship with others because of God's design for mankind and the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### How does loving God most satisfy the soul and help us to love others more?

Often, we long for companionship with other people. We can often seek out relationships with others to satisfy the longing that can only be filled with a relationship with God. James 4:8 teaches us that when we seek God and draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. Psalm 9:10 reminds us that when we know God we will trust Him and draw near to Him. Jeremiah 9:10 shows us that our seeking should be done with our whole heart, which means that our focus is knowing God and growing in Him.

2. Genesis 1:27: God created people as male and female because He created them to be in relationship with one another.



## BIG IDEA #3: WE HAVE PURPOSE BECAUSE WE WERE CREATED TO REFLECT GOD TO THE WORLD.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

God's creation of the world and mankind is intentional and purposeful. All that God made, He made for a specific purpose—to bring Him glory. Genesis 2:4-7 shows the intentionality with which God made man. God was intimately involved in the creation of man, breathing life into his lungs and placing him in his first home—the Garden of Eden. God's plan for mankind was evident in His creation of Adam and Eve. He gave them purpose and value. Every person born after them has the same purpose and value. This means that every life matters and is made to reflect who God is to the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Genesis 1:27. What does being made in God's image imply about the importance and value of all people?**

In Genesis 1:26, we see that God made people with a greater importance than the rest of creation because God placed man above creation. Matthew 6:26 further reveals that people have greater value to God than the rest of creation. Even though God cares greatly for all of creation, people are of greater value and importance to Him and should be to us as well.

### [ THIS ]

When God created humans, He made them with a different and greater purpose than the rest of creation. While all of creation reveals God's power and brings Him glory, people are the only part of creation that bear His image. While animals can live in groups and even feel emotion, they do not bear God's image, nor are they given an eternal soul and capacity for a relationship with God. People bear God's image and are a reflection of Him in the world. Our ability to love deeply, to live in relationship with one another, and create are all reflections of God our Creator. Though people share the created purpose of bringing God glory, only people reflect God in the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Genesis 1:26-31. If God created people to reflect Him in the world, how can we accurately reflect Him in our daily lives?**

Romans 12:2 teaches us that we should not be conformed to the sinfulness of the world, but instead be renewed in our minds to be like Christ. 1 Corinthians 4:4 warns us that the sin of this world can blind us to Christ and it is only in being like Christ that we can accurately reflect Christ in the world.

### **How would you describe the way you reflect God to the world on a daily basis?**

1 John 3:10 serves as a warning that our behavior reflects the condition of our heart. If we love God, our behavior will consistently reflect that and our reflection of God's image will be more accurate. 2 Corinthians 5:17 shows us that those who know Christ are new creations and this means that we will reflect God's image much more accurately through the power of His Spirit inside of us.

3. Genesis 2:4-7: God made man to reflect His image to the world. Man is a reflection of God and is created for God's glory.