

# 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 STORY: 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 child 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 child should strive to:

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



#### Every child should feel:

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



#### Every child should want:

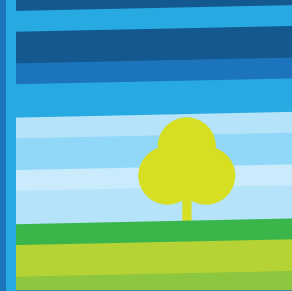
- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God's story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

### FAMILY DEVOTION: CREATED IN HIS IMAGE

Every person is created in God's image. This means that we all have value and are valuable to God. We also live in community because of how God made us to be like Him.



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**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.*

**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.”*

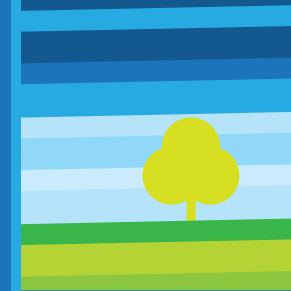
- Every person, regardless of their faith in Christ or lack of it, bears God’s image. Bearing God’s image gives people value. We are all created with value because God is valuable and we are made in His image.
- Bearing God’s image gives us implicit value that cannot be taken away. God gave us a unique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

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 1:26-31; 2:4-7**

*God Created Man*

**Opening Illustration:**

Bring in a handheld mirror and pass it around to each preschooler. Ask the preschoolers to talk about what they see in the mirror when they look in it. Talk with the children about the ways that each person is different and how they are the same. Remind them that we are all created in God’s image and we all have value and purpose.



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

### All people are made in God's image.

- Everyone who is born reflects God's image to the world. In Genesis 1:26-27, we see the story of God creating the first man and woman in His image. Every person alive today or who has ever lived is a reflection of God's image.
- All people are a reflection of God's image, even when we reject God. We are all broken and fallen because of our sin, and yet still bear His image because this is how He chose to create us. All of creation proclaims God's glory, yet humans uniquely bear and reflect His image. When we look at the world and all that is in it, we get a glimpse of God's glory and magnificence. When we look at people, we get a glimpse of who God is.



Bring in a box of toys. Include toys that are broken and some that are brand new. Ask the preschoolers to identify the toys with great value versus the ones they think have no value. Separate the toys as they identify them. Once you're finished, talk with them about how no matter what, all people have value because they are image bearers.

### Because God is valuable, people are valuable.

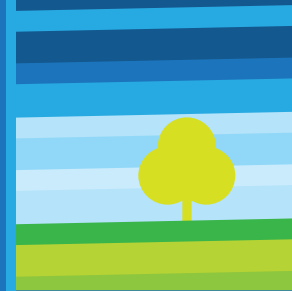
- People have value because of their connection to God. Even those who reject God are still connected to Him as their Creator. Whoever creates something assigns its value and since God is the Creator of humans, He assigns value to them.
- When God made people in His image, He assigned great value to them because He has great value. He is God, the Ruler and Sustainer of all life. Without Him, nothing has value or could continue to exist. When God made man and woman in His own image, He assigned them value and purpose as a reflection of Himself.

### People have worth because of God.

- Being made in God's image means every person has worth. Everyone has intrinsic value and worth, even those who reject God and live lives of great disobedience. When God created people, He set them apart from the rest of creation by placing His image upon them.
- People have greater worth to God than the rest of creation. It is only people that God gave souls to and the ability to live forever. It is only for people that God sacrificed His Son to offer reconciliation to the world. People matter above all other things in the world because God created them with greater worth and value.

*How does God's value give us value? (God made us in His image and that means we have value because He is valuable.)*

1. Genesis 1:26-27: God created man and woman in His image and gave them great value.



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

### God is a relational God.

- Genesis 1:27 shows us that God is relational because when He made the first people, He made them male and female that they might live together as a family. God's creation of people shows us that He made us to live in communities.
- We know that God is a communal and relational God, and because we are a reflection of His image, we too desire relationships. He desires a relationship with His people and experiences perfect community within Himself in the Trinity. It is part of our created nature to long for companionship.



Ask the preschoolers to sit in a circle. Next, pass a bean bag or ball around while music plays. When the music stops, ask the preschooler holding the object to say the name of one person they consider their friend. It can be their parent or sibling. Talk with the children about how we all like to have friends and like to have relationships because God made us that way.

### People desire to live in communities because of God.

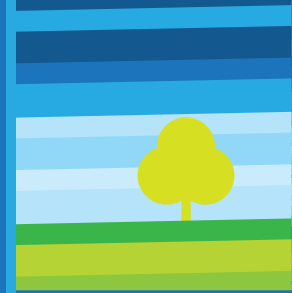
- When God made Adam, He also made Eve to be Adam's companion. This means that God created man and woman with a desire to live in community with one another. People desire and need to be connected with others.
- Humans do not thrive when they live in isolation. When people are connected to others and live in communities, their lives are better. We all have this desire for community because of the way that God created us. When He made us in His image, we were imbedded with a desire for community because He is a relational God.

### People desire a relationship that is only fulfilled by God.

- God created people to be in a relationship with Him. This desire cannot be fulfilled by any other person. Though we all can be connected to other people, we cannot fill the desire to know God and be known by Him with another relationship. Even when we try, we will still find ourselves longing for it.

*Why do people long for companionship? (God is a relational God and He created us to desire community and companionship.)*

2. Genesis 1:27-28: God made people male and female to live in community because He is communal.



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

### All that God made was made with purpose.

- God is an intentional and purposeful Creator. All that He made was part of His design for creation. Nothing in life is without purpose or value because God is the Creator of all things.
- God created the heavens and the earth to bring Him glory. He created people to bring Him glory. Every created thing's purpose is God's glory. People are elevated to a higher purpose because they are made in God's image.



Give each preschooler a blank piece of paper and markers. Ask the children to draw a picture of themselves. Allow the children to share their pictures. Talk with the children about the purpose that every person has. Ask the children to share ways they can reflect God to the world.

### Every person ever born was created with a greater purpose.

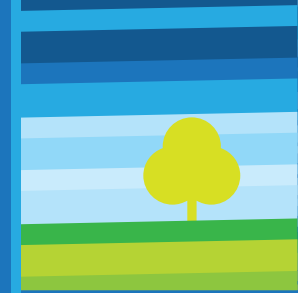
- God created people to reflect His image to the world. By reflecting His image to the world, people bring God glory. As His image bearers, we have value and purpose, and we also have responsibility. We are a reflection of God.
- As followers of Christ, our responsibility is greater because we have gained an understanding of our purpose and have the power through God's Spirit to reflect God in a way that brings Him glory. Because we are no longer held captive by our sin nature, we can and should reflect God in a way that shows the world His majesty and glory.

### Everyone has purpose because we are all made in God's image.

- Not everyone follows God. Some people reject God and follow their sin nature. No matter if a person follows God or rejects Him, every person has a purpose.
- Rejecting God does not remove His image from us. Following God means we understand and seek to fulfill our God-given purpose. Regardless, every person has a purpose and that means they have value and should be valued.

*How can we fulfill our created purpose? (When we reflect God's image in a way that brings Him glory, we can fulfill our created purpose.)*

3. Genesis 1:28-31: God made the first people and gave them purpose. He gave them provision and jobs. He made them to bring Him glory.



## HOOKS



KNOW

**In His Image**

Write the following verse on the board in big letters: Genesis 1:27. Read the verse to the preschoolers and have them repeat it with you. Talk with them about how every person is created in God's image.

- Every single person born is created in God's image.
- We are all God's image bearers and are a reflection of Him to the world.
- When we play with our friends or we come to church, we are bearing God's image



DO

**What Do I Reflect?**

Use a large piece of paper or the board to draw the outline of a person. Next, ask the preschoolers to help you draw clothes on the outline and then eyes, hair, a mouth, and etc. Ask the preschoolers to name some of the things we see when we look at people, such as their hair, their eyes, their smiles, etc. Talk with them about how we all reflect, or show something.

- Because we are all made in God's image, we are a reflection of Him.
- We can be a good reflection of Him when we show His love to the people around us. When we obey our parents and are kind to our brothers and sisters.



FEEL



WANT