



LESSON 1

CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

GOD'S BIG STORY: God creates the world and everything in it. His most precious creation is people, who He created in His image to look after the earth and to be in relationship with Him.

WORD OF WONDER: When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! —2 Corinthians 5:17

- Welcome Question: What is your favorite thing God made?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural
- Preteen Responding in Worship: God Reflections



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1–2

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

When you look in the mirror, what do you notice? Is it your flaws? Maybe a new wrinkle or pimple (or two)? Perhaps like me, you try to avoid the mirror at all costs or, at other moments, obsessively look at it to make sure your hair, your clothes, or your shoes reflect who you want to be.

In 2020, the global fashion industry was worth an estimated \$1.5 trillion, making it the fourth largest industry in the world! Have you ever wondered why we care so much about how we appear physically? Perhaps it's because image is a big deal, and we've simply forgotten who we were created to look like!

Read Genesis 1–2. What do you find in this passage that stands out to you? What did God say when He created Adam and Eve? God made us in His image—to represent God, follow His direction, and care for His creation.

What would the world be like if we lived in the confidence that we are all uniquely created in God's image instead of trying to maintain our own images? How would we treat one another? What do you think keeps us from living this way?

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The “who” in Genesis 1–2 is God. The Bible makes it clear that God is the One who brings all things to life. And the high point of His creation is humanity—Adam and Eve, the first two people. They represent God’s image.

WHAT?

Genesis 1–2 shows the depth and breadth of God’s creation. From darkness to light, from tiny insects to great sea creatures, God created them all. In His good world, all is beautiful and as it’s meant to be.

WHERE?

Everywhere! This is the big story of the creation of the whole world. God placed Adam and Eve in a garden called Eden, near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (Genesis 2:10–14). This places Eden in modern-day southern Iraq in the region of Mesopotamia.

WHEN?

The Bible tells us this happened “in the beginning” (Genesis 1:1). The main point is that God created everything according to His purpose. Genesis 1 focuses on the big picture of creation, and Genesis 2 zooms in on the care God put into creating humanity.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

In the beginning, there was no sin or suffering. The world was beautiful, and humanity walked and talked with God. Sadly, sin marred creation and people’s relationship with God. God promises to one day restore all things. All who trust in Jesus will be made new, and sin and suffering will be no more.

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Made Us in His Image

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1-2

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Pre-Service Connection (15-20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

[Games & Activities Guide](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious"

questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **What do you think it would be like to be a bird, shark, or ant?**
- **Why do you think God made you?**



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!
—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), note cards (1 per kid), pens (1 per kid), stopwatch

Our Word of Wonder for the Created New series talks about being made new! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17. Introduce kids to 2 Corinthians 5:17 by reading it several times together.

Give each kid a note card and a pen. Assign each word (or phrase) from the verse to a different kid. Then have them write the words on the cards and put the cards in a pile in the middle of the circle. (Encourage older kids to help younger kids if needed.)

Divide the group into two teams. One team will be the timers. The other team will be the players. Allow each team to see how fast they can put the verse in order while the other team tracks time. Record the time and switch roles. Repeat a second time to see if teams can beat each other (or even their own time).

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Write on the note cards ahead of time. Then invite the whole group to work together (with your help!) to put the cards in verse order.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Tell kids today's story is found in Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament. Open your Bible and show kids how to find the first book. Ask older kids to help younger kids find the passage.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

Read Genesis 2:4–7, 15–17, 20–22 and Genesis 1:27 aloud while kids follow along in their Bibles. Then

Elementary Questions

- **What did God create? Be as specific as you can.** (See Genesis 1 for details. Kids might share general categories [like “sea creatures”] or name specific things/species [like “great white sharks”]. Either is great!)
- **Who were the first two people God created?** (Adam and Eve)
- **What was different about the way God created people versus how He created everything else?** (God molded man out of dust and breathed life into him. He formed woman from a part of the man. God created everything else by speaking.)
- **What do you think was the best part of God’s creation?**
- **What does God think about you?** (Remind kids that God’s thoughts about them are good! Consider reading Psalm 139:17.)
- **God made people in His image to reflect what He’s like! What’s something about God you can reflect?**

Isn’t it amazing to look at all that God made? He is such a creative God! He is reflected in all of creation and especially in you! Look at your friend and say: **God made you in His image!** Allow kids to respond.

Preteen Questions

- **What did God create and do each day? See if you can name them in order.** (Day 1: day and night; Day 2: sky above and water below; Day 3: separated oceans from dry ground and made plants; Day 4: all planet and stars; Day 5: birds, fish, seas creatures; Day 6: animals and humans; Day 7: God rested.)
- **What responsibilities did God give the first two people to do in the garden of Eden?** (to work the garden and take care of it)
- **What did God think of His creation?** (He was pleased with it)
- **When God made people, He made them in His image. What does that mean to you?**
- **In what ways do you reflect God well?**
- **What can you do this week to reflect God more clearly?**

The light, the dark, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, trees, grass, flowers, and oceans show us God’s power and creativity! He is bigger than we can imagine—what an amazing thought! And His most precious creation that reflects Him best is you! Look at a friend and say: **God made you in His image!** Allow kids to respond.

Leader Tip: As kids discuss how they can reflect God more clearly, acknowledge that because of sin, we can’t be like God on our own! But we’re not on our own! God gives Jesus-followers the Holy Spirit to guide us, give us strength, and help us be more like Him!

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share their praises and prayer requests. Encourage kids to focus today’s prayer time on simply praising God for creating us in His image. Have kids get in groups of two and pray a prayer of thanks to God for each other and for ways that they see God’s image reflected in their partners.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Elementary Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural

SUPPLIES: chart or butcher paper, markers, tape

RESOURCES: [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Roll out chart or butcher paper on the floor across much (or all) of the room. Set out markers. Invite kids to sit somewhere along either side of the roll of paper.

Today in God’s big story, we learned that God created us in His image.

We were created to be like Him and to reflect who God is and what He is like. There are so many different ways we can reflect God! One way we can reflect God is to love others because God loves everyone. Another way is to be patient because God is patient with us. We can also show kindness, humility, joy, and forgiveness. And these are only some of the ways we can reflect Him. There are so many more!

Spend some time thinking of the ways you can reflect God and be like Him. Think creatively about the ways you want to be more like God and then draw those things on the paper. Let’s create a giant mural of the beautiful parts of who God is and how we can be like Him!

Make It Inclusive: Some kids get overwhelmed working on group projects in close proximity with others. They work better in their own space. So, if needed, allow kids to draw their responses on individual sheets of paper.

Give kids time to draw on the mural. As they draw, write “God Created Us in His Image” in large letters across the top or invite a kid with nice handwriting to write it. Play music from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids draw.

Leader Tip: A variation of this activity is to turn the lights down and shine black lights across the roll of paper. Let kids use highlighters instead of markers to draw. The black lights will make the drawings glow in the dark. When we reflect God in the way we live, His light shines through us!

As kids finish their drawings, continue talking with them. **Wow! Your drawings display such wonderful ways to reflect God’s image!** If time allows, invite several kids to tell the group about their drawings. **God understands that because of sin—the wrong things we say and do that pull us away from God—being like Him is hard. We can’t do it on our own! That’s why He gives everyone who follows Jesus the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to help us reflect God better!**

When everyone is done drawing on the mural, invite kids to help you tape the mural to the wall. If possible, leave it up for several weeks as a reminder that we’re made in God’s image and can reflect Him.

Preteen Responding in Worship: God Reflection

SUPPLIES: small craft mirrors (1 per kid), fine-tipped dry-erase markers (1 per kid), paper (optional, 1 sheet per kid), drawing utensils (optional), handheld mirror (optional)

Ahead of time, order small craft mirrors, one per kid. (The mirrors can be any shape as long as they are large enough for kids to write one word on them with a fine-tipped dry-erase marker.) Alternatively, provide a sheet of plain paper and drawing utensils for each kid.

Leader Tip: Small craft mirrors can be purchased in bulk from online retailers and found at many arts and craft stores.

Today in God’s big story, we learned that God created us in His image. We were created to be like Him and to reflect who God is and what He is like. There are so many different ways we can reflect God! One way we can reflect Him is to love others because He loves everyone. Another way is to be patient because God is patient with us. We can also show kindness, humility, joy, and forgiveness. And these are only some of the ways we can reflect Him. There are so many more! Let’s spend a few minutes sharing ways we see each other reflecting God’s image.

Form a circle and share one way you’ve noticed each person reflecting what God is like. If time allows (or if your group is small), invite kids who would like to share to say one way another person reflects God’s image. Here are some ideas of ways different kids might reflect God’s image: their kind smile, the way they work well with others, their funny sense of humor, their beautiful singing, their wonderful energy, the way they listen well to others, etc.

Leader Tip: If there are preteens you don’t know well (maybe they’re new to the ministry—or maybe you’re new!), it’s OK. Be on the lookout throughout the lesson for one small way each kid reflects God’s image well. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight into the unique way God made each child to reflect Him!

Give a small craft mirror and dry-erase marker to each kid. Alternatively, give each kid a sheet of paper and drawing utensils and invite them to draw a handheld mirror. (If you have a handheld mirror with you, show it to them for inspiration.) **I invite you now to think of one or more ways you reflect God’s image to the people around you. It might be something someone else just pointed out, or it might be another way you reflect God’s image well.**

Pause for kids to think. **With your dry-erase markers** (or drawing utensil if using paper), **write those things on your mirrors. For example, if you reflect God’s image when you make people laugh, you might write the word “humor” on your mirror. If you reflect God’s image by being kind to your younger siblings, you might write the word “kindness.”** Pause for kids to write on their mirrors.

Make It Inclusive: Spelling is hard, especially for people with dyslexia or other learning differences. Be available to help kids spell words and consider brainstorming a list of words with the whole group and writing them on a whiteboard that kids can refer to as they write on their mirrors.

Once kids have written on their mirrors, invite them to share what they wrote. **Wow! Each of you reflects God's image in such unique and important ways! Still, it's important to remember that no matter how hard we try, we'll never reflect God's image perfectly on our own. In fact, because of sin—the wrong things we say and do that pull us away from God—it's impossible to be like God on our own. That's why He gives everyone who follows Jesus the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to help us reflect God better!**

Invite kids to take their mirrors home. (If possible, send each kid home with a fine-tipped dry-erase marker as well.) Encourage them to set their mirror somewhere they will see it often and to keep practicing reflecting God's image to others. When they experience a new way to show what God is like, they can write it on their mirrors!