



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

- PRE-SERVICE:
 - OPTION 1-Interactive Game: Reflect Me
 - OPTION 2- Interactive Game: Wave of Mirrors
- Welcome Question: What is your favorite thing God made?
- Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: You Have Overcome, Praise the Lord
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Worthy of it All
- Blessing Your Kids



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.

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

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be extra intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

OPTION 1– Interactive Game: Reflect Me

SUPPLIES: handheld mirror (1 or more)

During this activity, kids will pass around a handheld mirror and look at their reflections. If your group is large, keep the activity moving by providing multiple mirrors for kids to pass around.

Gather the kids together in a circle. [Display the Reflect Me Slide.](#)



Before you came today, did you look in the mirror? Allow kids to answer. **When you looked in the mirror, what did you see?** Allow kids to respond. **A mirror is a piece of flat glass that reflects whatever is in front of it. If you look in a mirror and make a silly face, you'll see a reflection of your silly face. Let's try it!** Invite kids to pass the mirror(s) around the circle and make a silly face. **A mirror reflects what a person looks like and what a person does.**

Help kids pair up with partners and have them stand facing each other.

Let's play a game called Reflect Me. One person is the mirror, and the other person is looking in the mirror. Your goal is to work together (without talking!) so that the mirror person and the person looking in the mirror are moving at almost the same time. You want to be perfect reflections of each other! The mirror person can start by making large, smooth movements with their arms and body. Once you get that down, the mirror person can try speeding up her movements or making silly faces! Allow kids time to play and then switch roles. Gather kids back together.

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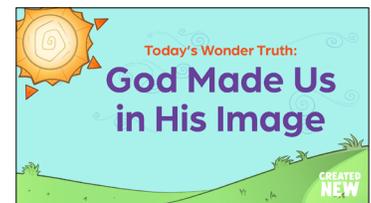
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Leader Tip: Encourage kids to use slow, deliberate movements. This makes it easier for their partners to follow.

If I were to guess, every one of you uses a mirror every single day. Way back in the beginning of time, God created people. He created people in His image. We were all created to be like Him and reflect what He is like—to be like Him in our words, attitudes, thoughts, and actions.

Display the Creation Wonder Truth Slide. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE.**



Leader Tip: Help kids understand the meaning of being created in the image of God. This means we're created to be like Him and reflect what He is like. Invite kids to think of some attributes of God.

OPTION 2– Interactive Game: Wave of Mirrors

Display the Wave of Mirrors Slide and gather the kids.

How many of you looked in a mirror before you came today? Encourage kids to respond by raising their hands. **When we look in a mirror, we see a reflection of whatever is in front of it. Today we're going to play a game called Wave of Mirrors and get a chance to reflect each other's**

movements. Invite kids to form a circle and remain standing. Have all the kids rotate their bodies to the right so that they are looking at the back of the person that was beside them. Designate one person as the leader. **The leader will begin by making slow, simple movements that are visible to the person behind her.** Model some large movements, keeping your arms out to your side. **The person behind the leader will pause for about one second and then mirror the leader's movements by doing the exact same thing. The next person in the circle will pause for about one second and start mirroring the person in front of her. Everyone in the circle will follow this pattern until the leader sees her own movements being done by the person in front of her (but delayed by many seconds).**

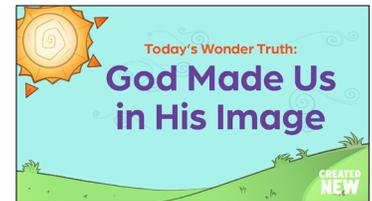


Our goal is to create a wave of mirrors! Once the wave has made it all around the circle one or two times, pause and designate a new person as the leader.

Leader Tip: This activity works best if the leader is not a part of the circle. Instead, watch closely to make sure the mirror wave is working. If someone isn't paying attention or is struggling to keep up, come beside them to help.

Make It Inclusive: If kids have limited mobility, set up chairs in a circle and have kids do this activity from a seated position. Just encourage them to use very large arm movements that the person behind them can see clearly.

After a couple rounds, gather kids back together. **Great job reflecting each other's movements! Way back in the beginning of time, God created people. He created people in His image. We were all created to be like Him and reflect what He is like—to be like Him in our words, attitudes, thoughts, and actions. Display the Creation Wonder Truth Slide. Today's Wonder Truth is GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE.**



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Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question. Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

In today's part of God's big story, we'll discover what God's favorite creation is of all that He made! But first, it's time for small group.



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the [Creation Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

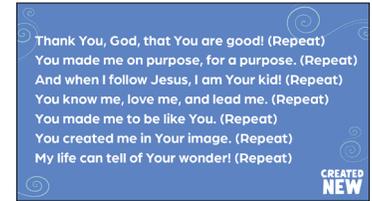
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You made me to be like You. (Kids repeat.)

You created me in Your image. (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, You are beautiful to us. Thank You for creating everything we see and for creating us to be like You. We invite Your Holy Spirit to be with us as we learn more about what it means to be like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll hear about how we're made in God's image. Let's praise Him now.

Play *You Have Overcome*, *Praise the Lord* worship songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Display the [Creation Title Slide](#).

Tell kids today's story is found in Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament.

Today we are learning about how God created people in a special and loving way. Watch how God made humans in His image and gave them a purpose from the very beginning. As you watch, think about what it means that God made you on purpose and loves you exactly as you are.

Watch the [God's Big Story Video](#).



LESSON 1 CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

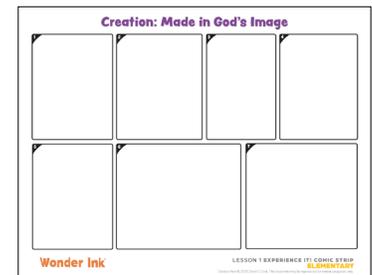
SUPPLIES: Bible, coloring utensils, pencils, easel or flip chart with large sheet of paper, marker, clipboards (optional, 1 per kid), dot markers (optional)

RESOURCES: Experience It! Comic Strip (1 per kid)

Leader Tip: Some kids aim for perfection when drawing and like to take their time on every detail. That's OK! Rather than rush kids to finish now, encourage them to take their comic strips home to finish later.

Make It Inclusive: Provide a variety of utensils and simple adaptive tools for kids with varying dexterity levels, such as thick markers, jumbo crayons, and pencil grips. Also consider drawing in pencil on several comic strips ahead of time and making those copies available to kids who might struggle to draw their own pictures. Invite them to trace or color the pencil drawings.

Before kids arrive, print one Experience It! Comic Strip for each kid. If using, preload the clipboards with one Experience It! Comic Strip each. Set out coloring utensils and pencils. Set up the easel or flip chart on your stage area and prep it by drawing seven boxes with a marker that reflect the layout of the boxes on the Experience It! Comic Strip. Place a set of coloring utensils and dot markers (if using) on stage within easy reach. Also, set the Bible within reach.



As you tell the story, pause to allow time for kids to draw/design each day of creation in each box of their comic strip.

Today you'll need ears and eyes on high alert because you'll be creating your own comic strip showing this part of God's big story! Let's practice being on high alert: Get first your paper, grab a pencil, and write your name in the corner. When you're done, set down your paper and pencil and look up at me.

Hand out the Experience It! Comic Strips, pencils, and coloring utensils. Allow time for kids to complete the task, then continue.

In the very beginning, before time began, the one and only God created the world. Open the Bible to Genesis 1 and hold it up for kids to see. **The first book in the Bible, Genesis, shares the start of God's big story about His relationship with people and His plan for the whole world, and it begins with God's creation of the universe. First, God made spaces to fill with all kinds of beautiful things. When there was nothing but darkness, God said, "Let there be light!" (Genesis 1:3). And at God's command, light appeared!** Pick up yellow and black coloring utensils, coloring light and dark in the first box of the comic strip. **Let's draw what God created on that first day.**

Direct kids how to portray *light* and *dark* in box one. Remind them to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready for the next part of the story.

By creating light and separating it from darkness, God created the first day and night. Let's draw what God created on the second day. Pick up a blue coloring utensil and draw in the second box as you talk. **On the second day, God created the sky above and the water-covered earth below.**

Invite kids to draw clouds in the upper part of their second box and water in the lower part of the box. Remind them to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready to move on.

On the third day, God separated the oceans from the dry ground and covered the land with plants. Grab green, brown, and blue coloring utensils to draw in the third box. **Let's draw what God created on the third day.**

Invite kids to draw land, plants, trees, flowers, bushes, mountains, etc. in the third box. Remind them to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready for the next part of the story.

Over the next three days, God filled those spaces. On the fourth day, God placed all the planets and stars in the skies. Let's draw together.

Invite kids to draw a sun, moon, stars, planets, comets, etc. in the fourth box as you do the same on the large paper. Remind them to put down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal that they're ready for you to continue.

On the fifth day, God made the birds that fly through the air and the fish and sea creatures that live in the oceans. Let's draw together.

Invite kids to draw birds, fish, and other swimming creatures in the fifth box as you draw those things on the large paper. Remind kids to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready for the next part of the story.

On the sixth day, God created animals to live on the dry land. Then, as God's final act of creation, He made the first two human beings in His image, one man and one woman, to look after the world He had made and to be in relationship with Him. Let's draw together.

Invite kids to draw animals and two stick people in the sixth box as you draw on the large paper. Remind kids to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they're ready for the next part.

First, God made the man, molding his body out of dust and breathing into it the breath of life. Then God made the woman, because human beings are not meant to be alone. God caused the man to fall asleep and took part of his side and formed the woman from it. God blessed the man and the woman and created them to be companions for one another and to fill the earth with more human beings.

The one and only God created human beings in His image. What do you think that means? Allow a few responses. **Great thinking! God made us in His image to represent Him and look after the earth. We get to reflect what God is like!**

God provided for the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. He planted a garden in a land called Eden, and He commanded them "to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15 NIV). God gave them

the freedom to eat the fruit of every tree and plant except for one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them if they eat of that tree, they “will certainly die” (Genesis 2:17).

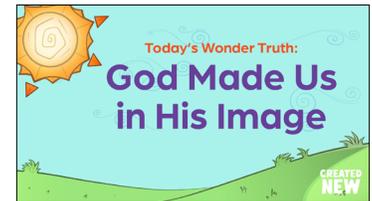
God looked at everything He had created—the vast universe and all of its beauty, the plants and animals, and the people He made in His image to watch over it all—and God was very pleased with it. Let’s leave the last box blank because when God was finished with His creation work on the seventh day, He rested.

God is still pleased with His creation, and just like Adam and Eve, we’re meant to represent God as we follow His directions and care for His creation. Flip your papers over and trace your hand on the paper. Allow time for kids to trace hands. Let’s write “God made us in His image” above your hand. Write this phrase “God made us in His image” on the large paper and encourage kids to copy this phrase onto their own sheets. Again, remind them to set down their coloring utensils and papers and look up front to signal they’re ready to move on.

God made you in His image!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Creation Wonder Truth Slide. Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD MADE US IN HIS IMAGE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.



In the beginning, there was no sin or suffering. The world was beautiful, and the first humans walked and talked with God. Sadly, sin messed up creation and people’s relationship with God. God promises that one day He will fix all things and make them right again. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be made new, and sin and suffering will be gone forever!

In Awe of God’s Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God’s story.

What did you wonder about in today’s story? Allow kids to answer freely.

When God created people, what do you think He wanted most for them? Allow kids to answer freely.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: WORTHY OF IT ALL

Blessing Your Kids

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: You are made in the image of God! May you reflect God in your attitudes, words, thoughts, and actions. With the help of the Holy Spirit, may you be like Him, so others can see Jesus in you.