

# WEEK 1

## GOD MADE ME IN HIS IMAGE GOD MADE ME IN HIS IMAGE ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

### THE FOUR KEYS . . .

## KEY VERSE

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.  
Genesis 1:27

## KEY IDEAS

1. God created mankind in His likeness.
2. God created mankind as male and female.
3. God created mankind with a purpose.

## KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 1-2

## KEY PRINCIPLES



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

that God had a purpose in creating us as male and female and that purpose is to be a reflection of the image of God.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

confident that God creates every person with purpose.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

understand the differences in male and female and know that God created mankind that way on purpose.



### EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to respect the way that God created mankind.

# INTRODUCTION

When God created mankind, He created them with a purpose that would be different from everything else He created. Unlike anything else God made, man and woman were created in God's own image. This means that God's primary purpose for mankind was to reflect His nature and glory to the world. That's a very important purpose! There are many things about humans that reflect the nature of God (creativity, intelligence, relationship, etc.). God's creation of man and woman shows us that He wanted humans to be in relationship with one another just as God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in relationship, and most importantly in relationship with Him. God made male and female on purpose. He could've made only one gender or made several but that was not His plan. Men and women are different and that is a good thing because each one reflects God's nature in a different way that together give us a more complete picture of who He is.

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Bring in two of the same kind of coin, one that is clean and one that is dirty where the image is slightly distorted. Ask the children "what is an image?". Allow time for answers and then explain that an image is a representation of something. Show the clean coin and explain that the U.S President on the coin is not actually the president. It can't talk or think, but it is his image. It represents the president and our government. In the same way, God made man in His image, to represent Him and bear His likeness. Because of sin, God's image in man became distorted. Show the dirty coin and explain that the image is still there and we know what it is, but the dirt has distorted its image. Explain that even in our sin, we are still image bearers of God, but when we give our lives to Jesus and we are cleansed, the image becomes more and more visible as we are sanctified. The more time we spend with the Lord, the more we begin to resemble Him.

## KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis chapter 2 and use the following ideas for guided discussion.

- God created mankind in His likeness.
  - What does it mean to be created in the image of God? Simply, it means that we were made to resemble God. All people have a spiritual likeness (God is spirit and has given us souls. John 4:24); a mental likeness (intelligence, creativity, humor, etc.); a moral likeness (conscience and desire for justice); and a social likeness (fellowship with God and with others).
- God created mankind male and female.
  - Why did God create male and female? Ultimately, we do not know exactly why God chose to make mankind this way except that it was His plan to reveal Himself to the world through man and woman. Men and women are different but together represent a complete picture of God's nature and glory and His desire for relationship with His creation. Because all that God creates is good, we can know that His purpose in creating male and female is good, too.
- God created mankind with purpose.
  - What purpose do we see God give humanity in Gen. 1:27-28 and 2:15-25? Do we have the same purpose today? Adam's purpose was to glorify God and have fellowship with Him, have good relationship with others, to work, and to have dominion over the earth. We have the same purpose, but because of sin all of these things are broken in the world now. Through Jesus our fellowship with God can be restored, and then through that fellowship our relationship with others can be restored and we can have a renewed purpose and be joyful in all things, keeping our eyes focused on our future home in Heaven where all things will one day be restored. (Eccles. 12:13-14)

## Activity

Using the whiteboard, write out "Attributes of God". Ask the children to define what they think it means that we are made in the image of God. As they are giving their answers, write two columns underneath titled "Shared Attributes..." and "Unshared Attributes..." Explain that there are some characteristics of God that He gave to us when He first created mankind and they reflect God's image in us. There are other characteristics of God that only God can have because He is God. Shared attributes are love, justice, grace, mercy, creativity, relationship, intelligence, etc. These make us different from any other animal God made. Unshared attributes are that God is self-existent, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent.

## Prayer

Thank God that He loved us so much that He made us in His image. Ask God to help us understand how we can represent His image to the world better.

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Genesis 1:27.

Spend time talking with your child about imagery. Discuss how your child resembles you as their parent (or they resemble their birth parents if your child is adopted, etc.). You share certain features or traits when you share genes. God shared His traits with us when He created us in His image. He wanted mankind to reveal His glory in this way. Use the questions below for further discussion.

## DISCUSSION

- **What are some of the attributes/characteristics God has shared with humanity that are different from the rest of His creation?**  
Unconditional love, compassion, humor, creativity, intelligence, logic, justice, mercy, etc.
- **If all people are created in God's image, how should we treat all people?**  
All people on the earth should be treated with kindness, love, and respect even when they do nothing to deserve it because every person matters to God. God has created every person with purpose and has given us value. If God cares that much about His creation, we should, too. You are created valuable, and so is every other person God created.
- **As Christians, God has given us purpose to reflect His character to the world as a testimony. How can we be a good reflection and testimony of God to the world?**  
To be a reflection simply means to show the world who God is. We show the world who God is when we follow His commands and live according to His word. This is how we bear the fruit of the Spirit of God in us. (Galatians 5:22-25, John 13:34-35)

## PRAYER

Spend time in prayer with your child thanking God for that He has made all people valuable and given us purpose through His son Jesus Christ. Ask God to help you understand how to be a better representation of Him to the world so that they might come to know His love.