



## CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

Image Is Everything

July 23, 2022

### 1 PREPARING

#### A. THE SOURCE

**Genesis 1:27 (NIV)** • “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

**Genesis 5:1, 2 (NIV)** • “When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them.”

**James 1:17, 18 (NIV)** • “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”

**James 1:5 (NIV)** • “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

**Job 31:13-15 (NIV)** • “If I have denied justice to any of my servants, whether male or female, when they had a grievance against me, what will I do when God confronts me? What will I answer when called to account? Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?”

**Colossians 3:9, 10 (NIV)** • “Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self,

which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

**Isaiah 42:5-7 (NIV)** • “This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: ‘I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.’”

**Malachi 2:10 (NIV)** • “Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another?”

**Revelation 4:11 (NIV)** • “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)** • “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

(See additional passages in student material.)

#### B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE”

Magazines, billboards, and the many forms of

media bombard young people with an outrageous message: this is what you *should* be, this is what you *could* be. This blitz of fantasy is from the kingdom of this world, and its purpose is to distract people from embracing who they already are. It is no wonder that teens are unsure of themselves when their external standards are so high. This lesson is about discovering what it means to be Created in God's image and how that idea shapes the way we value ourselves and each other. Part of being in His image is having the capacity to love others the way He loves (through His Spirit). Extending kindness to those we don't know, placing value on those who are easily forgotten, and giving grace to our enemies are all windows to the image of God. Why? God's purpose in making us in His image was to demonstrate His glory in us.

### C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE"

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Discover that their uniqueness is God's plan for them.
2. Reflect on what being created in God's image means for their personal sense of value as well as how they value others.
3. Commit to living out the qualities of God's image in their everyday lives.

### D. MATERIALS NEEDED

**Beginning** • (Activity A) modeling clay or dirt and water mixed to a thick moldable consistency; (Activity B) large paper or white/chalk-board, markers/chalk.

**Connecting** • Bibles, student lessons.

**Applying** • Brown paper bags, scissors, five large boards or blankets, paper, pens/pencils.

## 2 BRIDGING

### A. THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

### B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at [www.realtimefaith.net](http://www.realtimefaith.net))
- >> Service project reports

## 3 BEGINNING

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

### A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • The purpose of this exercise is to show earliteens that beauty is in the eye of the creator, and to celebrate creators. Perfection is really the opinion of the one who makes the original.

**Get set** • Using modeling clay, or simply dirt and water mixed to a thick moldable consistency, have students create an object in the shape of a human being. Divide them into groups of three to get a variety of creative input into this new "Adam."

**Go** • As students create, go around and affirm the qualities you see developing. After their creation is done, **say:** **Since all of your creations are "perfect," we are going to celebrate each**

one by cheering and clapping for the qualities you chose to give them. Continue through each example, celebrating what has been created as the creators explain it (if necessary).

**Debriefing • Ask:** Although the “Adams” were made of mud and clay, how did you feel cheering for them? How is that like celebrating God’s creation—us? Why can’t any of us tell any of these creators what their “being” *should* look like?

## B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready •** The purpose of this activity is to show how ridiculous the struggle to attain the world’s standard of physical perfection is. Also, to show how to rest in what God already said about the value of each person.

**Get set •** Tape a large piece of paper to the wall or have a white/chalkboard ready for use.

**Go •** Invite students to brainstorm all the ways people try to become perfect. Make a list on the paper or board as they name them (exercise, plastic surgery, hair color, toupees, diets). Have the students form groups of three or four and choose one of the examples listed. Their goal is to write a parable that can be read by the group that shows the futility of striving for “worldly perfection.” At the end of each presentation they need to include a short remark on what God has to say about our value and perfection as we are. They can choose passages from the student lesson. (This exercise could call forth a lot of humor and creativity. Motivate and moderate.)

**Debriefing • Ask:** In spite of how silly people look trying to attain “perfection,” how real is the pressure in our everyday world to “measure up”? (It is very real and especially troublesome at this age of rapid change and development.)

## C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

**In your own words, tell the following story:**

Jim and Priscilla Tucker made the following observation:

If you determine your worth by the value of raw materials in your body, the value of water, carbon, iron, calcium, fat, and other substances that make up your physical self adds up to less than \$50!

But there is another way to calculate your physical value. According to Keith Knoche, originator of Knoche’s Law and author of the book by the same name, each of us is made up of about 8 octillion atoms. That’s one 8 with 27 zeroes after it. To help us picture that number, Knoche uses an illustration from Donald Andrews, of Johns Hopkins University.

Imagine a deluge of peas falling from the sky. When the entire state of Pennsylvania is four feet deep in peas, 1 quintillion peas have fallen—and we are nine zeroes short. So we need more peas. Let’s cover all the land areas on earth to a depth of four feet. Now we have about 1 sextillion peas—still six zeroes short of the total we need. So let’s cover the rest of the earth, including the oceans, with four feet of peas. And let’s go out into space and get 250 more planets the same size as Earth and cover them with four feet of peas. Now we have about 1 septillion peas—and we are still three zeroes short of an octillion. To finish the picture we have to go deep into space to get 250,000 more planets the size of Earth and cover each of them with four feet of peas. Now we have 8 octillion peas—the same number as the number of atoms in your body.

How do all those peas translate into worth? Knoche quoted a report put out by the Dupont Corporation to determine the human body’s value in a new way. According to that analysis, the atoms in your body have the potential to generate 11 million kilowatt hours per pound. If you weigh 100 pounds, and if the electric company charges seven cents per kilowatt hour, your potential worth in electrical power is \$77 million! Of course, you would have to die to collect the money. Are you willing to give up your life for \$77 million? To Jesus, you’re worth much

more than \$77 million. And you don't have to die to get it, because He died so that you can collect eternal life (see **1 Cor. 6:20**).—Jim and Priscilla Tucker, *In Touch With God*, *Institute of Outdoor Ministry*, 1999. Used with permission.

## 4 CONNECTING

### A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

#### Present the following ideas in your own words:

Worldly kingdoms may talk about how people are valuable. But in the kingdom of God the King has demonstrated the enormous value of each individual by making them in His image. He stamped every person with characteristics that reflect His own. Satan's kingdom of selfishness urges everyone to strive to be valuable, whereas in God's kingdom you are valuable. In the kingdom of this world there is a subtle effort to undermine the beauty of God's creative plan by making people preoccupied with themselves and not the One after whom they were fashioned.

### B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

**Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson.**

**Ask:** Why are ants so clear about what they are supposed to be doing? (They are all working for their queen, doing the task they are designed to do for the good of the colony.) **What simple parallels are there with our lives?** (God has a purpose for each one of us and has gifted us or will gift us for that purpose. All our life and our work should relate to and revolve around our King.)

### C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

#### Pose the following scenario:

- >> Imagine an artist in an art gallery standing near his painting, *Children at the Park*, listening to the remarks visitors make about his work. He hears the fol-

lowing reactions of the people.

- >> "What was the painter thinking? Obviously, he is not in touch with reality! Nobody relates to the happy scene of people at a park anymore. This isn't art; it's a fairy tale."
- >> "Nice painting, but the people need to look more attractive. The artist failed to catch our attention with beauty. No one stands out in this painting; everyone looks so average. There is simply no glitz! No star! No main attraction! Boring!"
- >> "It's yesterday's painting. Contemporary thinking people simply don't believe that this is what is important anymore."
- >> "I wonder if this is one of those new paintings they did on a computer? Have you heard how you can just punch in a bunch of numbers and the computer will spit out a painting that looks just like something an artist would do? This has to be one of those."
- >> "The artist is obviously trying to avoid letting his dark side shine through. This painting is a cover-up of some really serious issues. This guy needs to see a psychiatrist and embrace who he really is."

**Debriefing • Ask:** How do you think the artist feels? What impressions of the artist have they formed too quickly? Can you find anything in these comments that is similar to the way people criticize God today? What do you think God would say in response? Refer the students to the Bible passages from the student lesson. **How is this scene like real life today? In what way do people totally miss the picture of the wonder of God's handiwork in other people?**

**Say:** Every painting has a purpose, a message, and an intended audience. Let's read the following verses and discover what God had in mind when He made us in His image.

- >> Ephesians 2:10
- >> Isaiah 42:5, 6
- >> Malachi 2:10
- >> James 1:16-18

- >> Genesis 1:26
- >> John 14:9, 10
- >> Colossians 3:7-11
- >> Hebrews 1:3, 4

**Say/Ask:** You can look at any painting, any movie, any book, any advertisement, and you can find a purpose, a message, and an audience. Try it out. Based on the verses we have just read, what was God trying to do by creating us in His image? What was He trying to say?

## 5 APPLYING

### A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Bring in brown paper bags big enough to cover the students' heads. Cut out eyes and nose holes, but no mouth holes. Get five volunteers to come up and put a bag on their heads. Take them out of the room and then walk back in with a board or blanket in front of them so no one can see from their necks down. Ask the students to tell the name of each student without them speaking. Relate this to the idea that we would never tell anyone apart if we were all the same.

Then have them pair up, hand out paper and pens/pencils, and ask them each to write down all the things they like about their partner. When they are finished, have some of the things read aloud to demonstrate that we all appreciate different facets of others.

### B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God created us each unique?
2. Do you think it is more important to be different on the outside or the inside?

3. How did Jesus show those around Him the image of God? What did they see?
4. What do you think God the Creator is like?
5. How are we "already" Created in God's image? In what way is God restoring us to His image daily? How can we celebrate the fact that God is restoring us to His image every day?
6. Does this restoration happen while we are still on earth, just in heaven, or both?
7. How can we share the glory of God's image with others?

## 6 CLOSING

### SUMMARY

**In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:**

Imagine if everyone in the world wore a paper bag over their heads with holes to see and a way to breathe. Would we sense the majesty of God's creative work in one another if we lived like that? Obviously not. The human person is so complex. We are crafted after our Maker. God made each person unique, and yet we all have common qualities. No one is the same, and yet in many ways we are all alike. While our fingerprint is like no other, we all need love and companionship. While no two people are identical, everyone has the same Maker and the same purpose in life. Probably the most tragic thing we could ever do to God's creation is belittle or destroy another person who is made in the image of God. Think about how we treat one another and what that says about what we think of God's work as a Creator. What difference would it make in your life if you viewed everyone from the viewpoint of their being made in the image of God?





## STUDENT LESSON

### CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

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July 23, 2022

#### Sabbath

#### FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 5, The Holy Spirit:** "He [The Holy Spirit] draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God."
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 80

#### IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

During the summer months, have you ever stopped to look at an anthill? Some people can sit for hours just watching the thousands and thousands of little black ants run up and down, and all around. It is fascinating to watch, although it does get a little tiresome after a while because they either move really fast or really slow. Imagine what God must see when He looks down at us. Thousands and thousands of people running around all day long, going in and out of buildings, cars, homes, schools, and a million other places.

There are a couple of similarities between ants and us. In both the ant world and the human world, we were created with the purpose of glorifying God in all we do. We were also both created to focus our life and work on one being.

For us, that is God and His kingdom. For the ants, the queen of the hill and her kingdom is the object of all their energy.

It is obvious that Satan has attacked our force by distracting us from our purpose and our work. When God created us, He gave us each a different sense of humor, personality, likes, and dislikes. But He gave us all the capacity to love and be loved. In many ways we are wired up the way He is!

Consider the ants! From our perspective, they might lack the fancy clothes and the individualism that we enjoy, but they are doing what they were created to do. The same can be true for us. While many try to find satisfaction in life by being their own person, they forget that they were created by and for another Person. Those who discover their real purpose in life are never disappointed.

#### Sunday

#### RESPONDING

- » Read 1 Timothy 4:4, 5.
- » Emily can't help noticing how much attention Ginger gets from everyone in school. Everyone loves her long black hair and thinks she is beautiful; and she's so kind it's almost painful. Every day Emily sits behind Ginger and thinks: She is perfect and I'm so average! She desperately wants to look like Ginger, so she dyes her hair and starts trying to dress like Ginger.



- » If Emily were one of your friends or acquaintances, what would you do or say to encourage her? What is she missing? What would be your approach to helping Emily?

Monday

## BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

- » Read John 15:26; John 16:7-13; 2 Corinthians 3:18.

- » We were Created in God's image. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned, His image in their character was destroyed. God still seeks to restore His image in us. It is through the Holy Spirit that we are convicted of our sins and are called to repent. When we have turned from our sins and desire to obey and serve God, we become more and more like Jesus, and God's image is reproduced and reflected in our lives.
- » What are some things I can do today to learn to obey, and serve God?

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- » Number the following statements in their correct order to find out about the Helper Jesus promised to send us.

	for He dwells with you and will be in you.
	I will come to you"
	"And I will pray the Father,
	16-18,
	because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;
	I will not leave you orphans;
	14:

	and He will give you another Helper,
	whom the world cannot receive,
	NKJV
	that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth,
	John
	but you know Him,

Who is the Helper and the Spirit of Truth? \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday

## REFLECTING

- » Read Revelation 4:11.
- » All through history, Satan has tried to oppose God. The deceiver has lied to people about their origin, their purpose, and their value. He wants our attention to be on anyone else except our Creator and Savior.
- » Listen to what God was thinking when He decided to create us: "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground'" **(Genesis 1:26, NIV)**.
- » The God of all the universe chose to fashion us in His image and likeness—both men and women. No matter what people look like, how they dress, where they shop, or where they live, humans all over the globe are precious because the Creator created them to be like Him.
- » When we try to become just like some image in a magazine or person on TV imitating a copy (whose poster is on your bedroom wall?), we fail to be like Jesus. If we look to God, our perfect example, we will each be



different, yet we will become more like Jesus in character. How can we become more like Him? In **Philippians 4:8, 9** and **Colossians 3:2** Paul tells us to focus on things worthy of our attention that are from above. Then our character will reflect the beautiful character of Jesus.

## Wednesday BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Unscramble the following Bible references and then match them to the correct Bible statements. Bible texts are from the New King James Version.

A. 139: mlasP 13-16	B. 12: ekuL 7	C. 5: siseneG 1, 2
D. 3: snaissoloC 10	E. 14: nhoJ 9, 10	F. 2: snaise- hpE 10

1.	"... He made him in the likeness of God. ..."	
2.	"... the Father who dwells in Me does the works."	
3.	"... created in Christ Jesus for good works ..."	
4.	"... according to the image of Him who created him ..."	
5.	"... And in Your book they all were written ..."	
6.	"... you are of more value than many sparrows."	

## Thursday CONNECTING

- » Read Psalm 139:14.
- » Review the memory text.
- » Do you sometimes wonder if anyone notices you? Your family and friends are supposed to. But beyond this immediate circle, do you really matter? Some think that people are valuable only if they are rich, beautiful, or powerful. If you've ever had similar thoughts, you need to understand that God has been thinking of you long before you were born.
- » Imagine God, your Creator, thinking of you even before you were born: I know exactly how I want you to be born (see **Psalm 139:13-16**). I know what color of hair you will have and exactly how many hairs you will need (see **Luke 12:7**). I have made you to look, act, think, and be like Me (see **Genesis 5:1, 2**). And, even though sin has made its mark on this world, it cannot erase your potential to become more like Me (see **Colossians 3:10, 11**). If you should wonder what that might be like, just look at My Son (see **John 14:9, 10**). So know that I made you and I want to take you home with Me when I come, so go and do the work I created you to do (see **Ephesians 2:10**).
- » God wants you to know who you are and what you are destined to become. God celebrates His creative work in you and will celebrate your beauty, goodness, and value throughout the ages. You are, after all, a son or daughter of God! (see **Romans 8:14; Galatians 3:26, NKJV**).



## Friday APPLYING

- » Read 1 Timothy 4:4, 5.
- » Here is one way you can begin to feed your mind with the wonders of God's love and purpose for you. Begin to record your thoughts here. Write out what you think God really likes about you. Think of qualities He

has gifted you with. Think of experiences He has enabled you to have that will make you helpful to someone else. Think of the things you love and hope for in your relationship with Him. To deny that you have value or gifts or anything "likable" is to deny that you have value in God's eyes. Without a doubt, God has gifted you in some unique way to be loved and cherished by Him and to make others happy.

### WHAT GOD LIKES ABOUT ME

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### GIFTS FROM GOD

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### EXPERIENCES GOD HAS GIVEN ME

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### HOW I WANT TO RELATE TO HIM

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