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Created in God's Image

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?

- » 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: snaisehpE 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

GIFTS FROM GOD

EXPERIENCES GOD HAS GIVEN ME

HOW I WANT TO RELATE TO HIM

