



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

**CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group**

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Question: What is your favorite thing God made?
- Curiosity Questions
- Elementary Interactive Game: Reflect Me
- Preteen Interactive Game: Wave of Mirrors
- Declaring God's Wonder



**BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group**

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder

**FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group**

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time

**IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group**

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Elementary Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural
- Preteen Responding in Worship: God Reflections
- Blessing Your Kids

**Wonder@Home™**

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

### 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

Large Group or 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

### Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Created New Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

### Welcome Question

**SUPPLIES:** paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Creation Welcome Question Slide

Before kids arrive, display the Creation Welcome Question Slide or write the following question on a whiteboard: “What is your favorite thing God made?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



### As kids arrive ...

Greet kids with air high-fives and fist bumps. Show kids today’s Welcome Question and have them share their answers with a few friends. For younger kids, read the question to them. Invite kids to draw their favorite things that God made and share their drawings with two or three people near them.

### At your start time ...

Welcome everyone and call several kids to the front to share their answers to today’s Welcome Question: **What is your favorite thing God made?** Give air high-fives and elbow bumps to each kid who shares before he sits down.

**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 to be curious!**

## Curiosity Questions

Ask the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious ...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I’m curious ...

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

## Elementary Interactive Game: Reflect Me

**SUPPLIES:** handheld mirror (1 or more)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Reflect Me Slide, Creation Wonder Truth Slide

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.



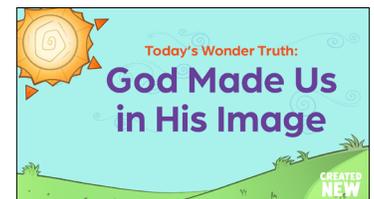
**Before you came today, did you look in the mirror?** Allow kids to answer. **When you looked in the mirror, what did you see?** Allow kids to respond. **A mirror is a piece of flat glass that reflects whatever is in front of it. If you look in a mirror and make a silly face, you’ll see a reflection 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.

**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.

## Preteen Interactive Game: Wave of Mirrors

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Wave of Mirrors Slide, Creation Wonder Truth Slide

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**

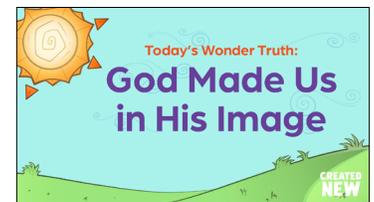


**movements.** Invite kids to form a circle and remain standing. Have all the kids rotate their bodies to the right so that they are looking at the back of the person that was beside them. Designate one person as the leader. **The leader will begin by making slow, simple movements that are visible to 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.**



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

## Declaring God's Wonder

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Creation Declaration Slide

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.)

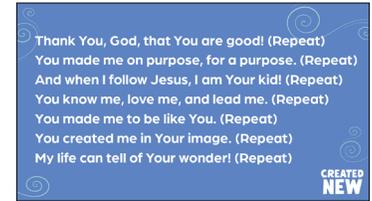
**And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**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.)



## LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

### Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Made Us in His Image

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1–2

**WORD OF WONDER:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

### 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

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll hear about how we're made in God's image. Let's praise Him now. Play songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

### God's Big Story

#### Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Creation Title Slide, [Creation: Made in God's Image God's Big Story Video](#)

Display the Creation Title Slide. 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

do one or both of the following:

- Use the following Creation: Made in God's Image Experience It! Script
- View [Creation: Made in God's Image God's Big Story Video](#)

## LESSON 1 CREATION: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

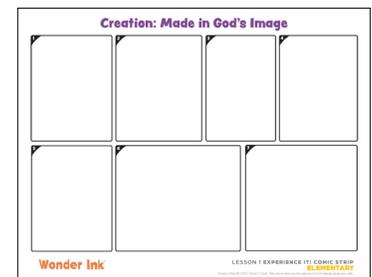
**SUPPLIES:** Bible, coloring utensils, pencils, easel or flip chart with large sheet of paper, marker, clipboards (optional, 1 per kid), dot markers (optional)

**Wonder Ink 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.

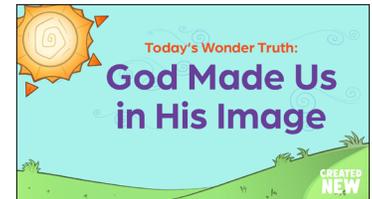
God is still pleased with His creation, and just like Adam and Eve, we’re meant to represent God as we follow His directions and care for His creation. Flip your papers over and trace your hand on the paper. Allow time for kids to trace hands. Let’s write “God made us in His image” above your hand. Write 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

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Creation Wonder Truth Slide

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.

## Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Made Us in His Image

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1–2

**WORD OF WONDER:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

## 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)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

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

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Word of Wonder Slide (optional), [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#) (optional)

**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. If possible, display the Word of Wonder Slide or watch the [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#). 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.

## 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.

## LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

### Large Group or Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Made Us in His Image

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1–2

**WORD OF WONDER:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

### Elementary Responding in Worship: Reflecting God Mural

**SUPPLIES:** chart or butcher paper, markers, tape

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Reflecting God Mural Slide, [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Display the Reflecting God Mural Slide and gather the kids together. 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 Reflections

**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)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** God Reflections Slide

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.

Display the God Reflections Slide and gather the kids. **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!

## Blessing Your Kids

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Creation Blessing Slide

After several minutes, close your time by saying a blessing over kids. Ask kids to receive the blessing by holding their hands in front of them with palms up. Display the Creation Blessing Slide.

**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.

