



preschool

CREATION

The first chapter of the Bible contains two very important theological statements:

The first is that God creates. When we look around at the world or observe the wonders of a night sky, we remember that everything we see has been created with intentional thought and purpose. We are not the product of random chance, but there is a Being who imagined, designed, and gave life to us and to the world around us.

The second important statement is that humans are created in God's image. We are endowed with the same creative spark that flows from our Creator. Of all the species of life on the earth, humans alone have the ability to make something of the world around us. Not only can we make tools, invent technology and build roads and cities, but we alone ponder the meaning of life. We alone seek a purpose and a calling in which we can invest our lives.

No doubt, you have already begun to observe some of this creative spark in your child. Children love to create - to make play-doh sculptures or invent songs and stories. Give a group of children a box of dress-up clothes, and within minutes they'll be acting out a never-before-seen drama! Your children will create meaning for themselves - it's hard-wired into us as humans to do so. Our job as parents is to help shape the meaning they create. We do that by helping them to recognize and name the unique gifts they have, and by guiding them towards a noble purpose for those gifts.

Remember, children carry not only the image of God, but also the image of their parents. It is common for us to look at children and compare their features to their parents - to see in a child his mother's eyes or her father's nose. Even in cases of adoption, it is not long before you see your image coming to fruition in your child. Far beyond their physical characteristics, you'll see your children mimicking your actions or repeating the phrases they hear (often with the exact same intonation). Like it or not, we all imprint our image upon our children.

Because our children will bear our image, it matters greatly what kind of example we live before them. We can spend a lot of time worrying about their behavior: Will they ever learn to clean up after themselves? Or when will they stop throwing tantrums? Or how can I get them to share more generously with others? But the strange truth is, what is inside us will ultimately end up inside them. Over the long haul, they will internalize the virtues of responsibility, patience and generosity only if they've seen it consistently practiced in our lives.

Yes, your child will have their own unique personality, experiences and gifts - their own unique reflection of God's image. But mixed in there will be the image they draw from you as parents. So take time to nurture your own soul and to be the person you hope they'll be someday.

in God's image

ADVANCED PREPARATION:

- Gather some baby pictures of your child, along with baby pictures from other members of your family (siblings, parents and grandparents)
- Print off pictures of babies from other parts of the world (simply Google different countries & cultures with the word “babies” attached)

Step #1

Read Genesis 1:26-27 with your child. Ask your child what they think it means when the Bible says we are made “in God’s image?” Explain that an image is a picture of something and that being made in God’s image means we were made to look like or be like God.

Step #2

Share pictures of your child of when he or she was a baby. This is a fun activity for children. Take time to share any favorite memories or traits you remember from your child’s infancy.

Show them pictures of other family members as infants. See if they can identify similarities. In addition to affirming physical resemblance, also affirm personality traits that you see in them that mirror strong traits within your family. Help your child to see how they “bear your image” in many ways.

Step #3

Show them pictures of all the different children of the world that you’ve pre-printed. Compare and contrast their pictures with those of other children:

- In what ways are we alike?
- In what ways are we different?
- Do you think all of these children are made “in God’s image?”

Explain to your child that no one really knows what God looks like (we can’t see God). But we do know that every single person is made by God and that we all are made to be like Him. And the better we love other people, the more we look like God designed us to be!

Step #4

Paste the picture of your child at the center of a large piece of paper or poster board, and then paste the other pictures around them in a collage. Let your child determine the pattern and placement of pictures. Place it in their room as a reminder that we are all God’s children!