

# SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE



## 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

## GOD'S BIG STORY:

God Made Us in His Image  
(Genesis 1-2)

## GOD'S BIG STORY 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?

## 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

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

## Curiosity Activity: Walk it Out!

- **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.

## Word of Wonder Activity

- **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).

# Responding in Worship: Floating Hearts

- 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.
- 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.
- 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!

## SMALL GROUP PRAYER

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!

Invite kids to join you in a circle to spend time talking to Jesus. Ask whether anyone has a question, something they would like to share with Jesus, or a prayer request. Give each kid a chance to participate, then close in prayer, remembering to thank Jesus for loving us!