

# 10



## MADE TO LOVE GOD

### Identity in God

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 3: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

## 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** 1 John 4:19

**Objectives** To explain that

- Today's lesson is about being made in God's image.
- The thing we want most in life is to be loved. We want love most of all because God made us to receive his love and to love him back.
- God is the source of love. Only he can love us perfectly and only his love can ever fully satisfy us.
- Because of sin, human love has become broken and selfish. But we can know God's perfect love because Jesus made a way back to God.
- Only if we follow Jesus can we enjoy that perfect love that God wants to give us. Then we will also be able to love each other better.
- We will still face sad and difficult things, but we know that God loves us, is always with us, and comforts us.

**Memory Verse** "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19 - NIRV)

**ACNA Catechism Connections** Today's lesson of Made to Love God is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q1 What is the human condition? Though created good and made for fellowship with our Creator, humanity has been cut off from God by self-centered rebellion against him, leading to lawless living, guilt, shame, death, and the fear of judgment. This is the state of sin.

Q6 How does God save you? God forgives my sins and reconciles me to himself through his Son, Jesus Christ, whom he has given to the world as an undeserved gift

of love. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Q43 How does recognizing God as Creator inform your understanding of his creation? I acknowledge that God created for his own glory everything that exists. He created human beings, male and female, in his image and appointed us stewards of creation. God's creation is thus a gift to enjoy as we work and care for it.

Q155 What should you seek in prayer? In prayer, I should seek not only God's provision for my needs, but fellowship with God, who made me for fellowship with himself.

Q270 What does it mean to have no other gods? It means that there should be nothing in my life more important than God and obeying his will. I should worship him only and love, revere, and trust him above all else.

Q271 Why are you tempted to worship other things instead of God? I am tempted because my sinful heart seeks my own desires above all else and pursues those things which falsely promise to fulfill them.

Q272 How are you tempted to worship other gods? I am tempted to trust in myself, my pleasures, my possessions, my relationships, and my success, wrongly believing that they will bring me happiness, security, and meaning. I am also tempted to believe superstitions and false religious claims, and to reject God's call to worship him alone.

Q279 Are idols always images? No. Anything can become an idol if I look to it for salvation from my sin or comfort amid my circumstances. If I place my ultimate hope in anything but God, it is an idol.

Q280 What does the second commandment teach you about hope? It teaches me that my ultimate hope is in God alone, for he alone is God and he made me. I must not look for salvation and fulfillment in myself, another person, my wealth or occupation or status, or any created thing. Only in God will I find perfect love and fulfillment.

Q282 How will idolatry affect you? If I worship and serve idols, I will become like them, empty and alienated from God, who alone can make me whole.

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

**Lesson Props:** (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Two decorative photo boxes – or use shoeboxes covered with identical wrapping paper – made to look like treasure boxes. One box is filled with chocolate coins (enough for each child). The other box is filled with empty chocolate coin wrappers – ideally put back together so at first glance they look intact.
- String – enough to make a track to walk along. Start track with single path, then fork into two paths – one shorter that leads to fake treasure – one significantly longer that leads to real treasure. Both must be visible from where the track forks.
- Sign saying: “Treasure hunt start”. Two signs for fork in the track – one pointing to real treasure, saying: “This is the way to the treasure” – one pointing to fake treasure, saying: “This is a shortcut to a better treasure!”
- Heart that says “Love” (teaching aid from Lesson 5 – The God Who Reveals Himself)
- Labels to stick on treasure boxes, saying: “Fake treasure”, “Real treasure”, “Life without God”, “I decide right and wrong”, “Follow Jesus”, “God’s love”.

**Memory Verse:** “We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19 – NIV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

## 2 | Lesson Outline:

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity ( <i>see Resource Section</i> )
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession ( <i>see Resource Section</i> ) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	Psalm 139 Song (Colin Buchanan) Made in the Image (Yancy Ministries) <b><i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i></b>
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <b><i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i></b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Story Board Review</b>	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <b><i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i></b>
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) <b>Big story props:</b> Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b><i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i></b>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b><i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i></b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <b><i>See Resource Section.</i></b>

### 3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the start and end of the lesson. No new symbols are added this week. Leave all the symbols on the storyboard for next week.

## 4 | Story and Questions

**SETUP:** *Have the following "treasure hunt" set up: At starting point place paper on the floor saying: "Treasure hunt start". From there, use string to set up a track on the floor, for the children to walk along. A little ways down the track there will be a fork in the track. From the fork, each track leads to an identical looking "treasure box" which are both visible from the fork. There is a sign pointing in one direction saying: "This is the way to the treasure" (make this track significantly more difficult than the shortcut track). The treasure box at the end of this track will be filled with chocolate coins. The sign pointing in the other direction says: "This is a shortcut to a better treasure!" The treasure box at the end of the shortcut will be filled with empty chocolate coin wrappers. Set up a different teaching location with the storyboard.*

**Please note:** This treasure hunt may not be suitable to do every year, as the element of surprise will be lost if the children remember what is in the treasure boxes. We recommend doing the treasure hunt every few years, and using the Condensed Lesson the rest of the time.

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about being Made in God's Image.'*

**STORYBOARD REVIEW:** *(Point to fetus symbol on storyboard)* This is a picture of a baby inside its mother's womb. It reminds us that we were made in God's image even before we were born.

Being made in God's image means that we are like God in many ways. We are intelligent, we are creative, we can speak, and we can love.

*(Point to Heart/Earth symbol on storyboard)* God made us for a loving relationship with him and each other, and he made us to take care of the world he created.

**STORY:**

**TEACHER:** Today we are going to talk more about our loving relationship with God.

Who would like to go on a treasure hunt? Let's all line up over here at the starting point. We'll all go together down this path to look for a special treasure, and I will lead the way. No running ahead!

**ACTION:** *Lead the children down the track and stop at the fork to discuss which way to go. Lead the children down the shortcut path to the first treasure box and gather all the children around you as you open the box.*

**TEACHER:** Oh no! The chocolate wrappers are empty! How disappointing! But the sign said that this was the shortcut to a better treasure! We've been tricked!

We will have to turn around and go back to the right path that will lead us to the real treasure.

**ACTION:** *Lead the children back to the fork and onto the track that says, "This is the way to the treasure." Comment on how much longer and harder this path is. When you get to the treasure box, gather all the children around you as you open the second treasure box.*

**TEACHER:** Yes! This is the real treasure! In this box the wrappers have chocolate in them! Let's take the box back with us and we will enjoy the chocolate when we have finished our lesson.

**ACTION:** *Bring both treasure boxes with you and sit down by the Kingdom Life storyboard with the children. Use the boxes as visuals as you speak.*

**TEACHER:** How did you feel when we opened the first box? (*Disappointed, sad, tricked etc.*) Yes, this was a fake treasure. (*Stick "fake treasure" label on fake treasure box.*)

How did you feel when we opened the second box? (*Happy, satisfied etc.*) Yes, this was the real treasure. (*Stick "real treasure" label on real treasure box.*)

Why did you think there was going to be treasure in the first box? (*Because the sign said so, because on the outside it looked like the same thing as the other box. The chocolate wrappers even looked real coins at first glance.*)

This treasure hunt can teach us something about real life. As you grow up, many people will tell you that life is easier and better without God. (*Stick "life without God" label on fake treasure box.*) They will say that you don't have to obey God,

that you can do whatever you want, and life will be great! They will say that life is better when each person can decide for themselves what to do and what is right and wrong. *(Stick "I decide right and wrong" label on fake treasure box)*

But the people who say those things, don't know that that is a fake treasure that will leave them empty and dissatisfied. In fact, that is the road of sin that leads to death. They don't realize that they were made for something much more special *(point to real treasure box)*, and they can only find the **real** treasure if they follow Jesus. *(Stick "follow Jesus" label on real treasure box.)*

What is the real treasure in life? There are many things we want, but the thing that we want and need most of all is to be loved *(hold up picture of red heart)*.

Why do you think we want love most of all? It is because God made us that way. *(Point to heart/earth symbol.)* He made us to love each other, but especially to receive **his** love and to love him back *(point to God's attribute "Love" on storyboard)*. God's love is the only thing that will fully satisfy us, because nobody else can love us as much as God does. God is love. He is the **source** of love.

God's love is the real treasure *(stick "God's love" label on real treasure box.)* God is the only one who knows you completely, and he is the only one who loves you perfectly.

Because of sin *(point to "SIN" card on grey area)* we were separated from God who is the source of love *(point to "Love" on Trinity circle)*, and our human love became broken and selfish.

*(Point to the appropriate symbols on storyboard as you say:)* But because Jesus made a way back to God, we can again enjoy God's perfect love. That is the love that exists between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Their love is so strong and powerful that it flows out from them to us, and it enables us to love God and one another.

We will never find that perfect love by being rulers of our own lives *(point to fake treasure box)*. Only if we follow Jesus can we enjoy God's perfect love *(point to real treasure box)*. Then we will also be able to love God and each other better.

Although we will all face sad and difficult times, we know that God loves us, is always with us, and comforts us.

This heart on our storyboard reminds us that we were made to receive God's love and to love him back and enjoy him forever. *(Point to heart/earth symbol.)*

**Life Application Prayer:**

Thank you, Heavenly Father, that you are the source of all love. Thank you that you made us to receive your perfect love and to love you back. Lord, sometimes life is difficult, and we feel sad. Help us to remember how much you love us and to allow your perfect love to change our hearts. Loving you is the most important thing of all. Amen

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What does this lesson tell us about God?** (God loves us. God is the source of love. He wants to share that love with us.)
- What is the real treasure in life? (God's love)
- Why do we want love most of all? (Because God made us to receive his love and to love him back)
- Why can't human love ever fully satisfy us? (Because it has become broken and selfish because of sin. Only God can love us perfectly.)
- How do we get to know God's love? (Through following Jesus, who made a way back to God through his death and resurrection.)
- Will we always be happy when we know God's love? (No, we will still face sadness and difficulty, but we will know that God loves us, is always with us, and comforts us.)

## 5 | Response Activities

### **Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement**

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### **Optional activities**

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"We love because he  
first loved us."

(1 John 4:19)