

9



MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

Annunciation/Sanctity of Life

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 3: MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Gen. 1:26-27; Ps. 139: 13–14

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about being made in God's image.
- The Holy Spirit formed Jesus in Mary's womb. He was a special baby because he was also God the Son, but he would have looked like any other human baby inside Mary's womb.
- Human beings are different from animals, as we are made in God's image.
- God created us for a loving relationship with him and with each other, **and** to take care of the world that he had made.
- To be made in God's image means that we are like God in many ways. We are intelligent, we are creative, we can speak, we can love.
- God created us male and female. Boys and girls are different, but equally important and valuable. Each one of us is created unique. You were a unique human being right from the moment you were created in your mothers' womb.
- Human life is sacred and holy because we are made in God's image and because Jesus took on human form to save us. Therefore, every human body and every human life should be loved, cared for, and protected.

Memory Verse "You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way." (Psalm 139: 13–14a - NCV)

ACNA
Catechism
Connections

Today's lesson of Made in God's Image is connected to the following Catechism questions:

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.

Q114 What does Holy Scripture tell you about your body? Holy Scripture tells me that my body, though tainted by sin, was created good, bearing the image of God and endowed with great dignity. Therefore, from the moment of conception to natural death, every human body and every human life should be cared for, protected, and loved.

Q118 How should you live as you await the resurrection of your body? Because I put my hope in God's resurrection of my body, I should honor and care for it. I should refrain from any violence, disrespect, or sin that would harm, demean, or violate either my body or the bodies of others.

Q314 How should Christians understand the value of life? All life belongs to God. Human life is especially sacred because we are created in God's image, and because Jesus came to give us new and abundant life in him. Christians, therefore, should act with reverence toward all living things, and with special regard for the sanctity of human life.

**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)

- Invite a pregnant mom or a mom with a baby to bring ultrasound pictures of her baby and talk about the baby growing in her womb. Alternatively, print out ultrasound picture from internet.
- Fetal growth chart (See props document.)
- Word cards: intelligent, creative, speak, love, male and female
- Flannelgraph (or wall or poster) to attach word cards to
- Storyboard symbols: 'Made in the Image of God' (fetus) and 'Made to' (heart/earth symbol)
- Ink pad (non-toxic & washable) for making fingerprints.
- The following Bible verse printed out: God said: "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over all the animals. So God created human beings in his own image... male and female he created them." (Gen 1:26-27)

Posters: Lesson posters from Year 1:

Lesson #1 – Creation

Lesson #12 – God's Promised One is Born (Christmas poster)

Memory Verse: "You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way." (Psalm 139: 13–14a - NCV)

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

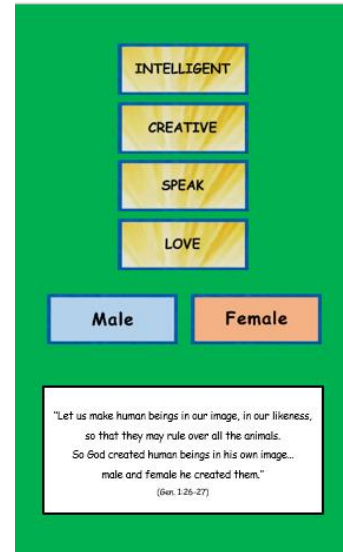
2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Psalm 139 Song (Colin Buchanan) – actions available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiXYXJ_m-yo&ab_channel=BloomfieldPresbyterianChurch Made in the Image (Yancy Ministries) Psalm 139:14 (Kids on the Move) <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

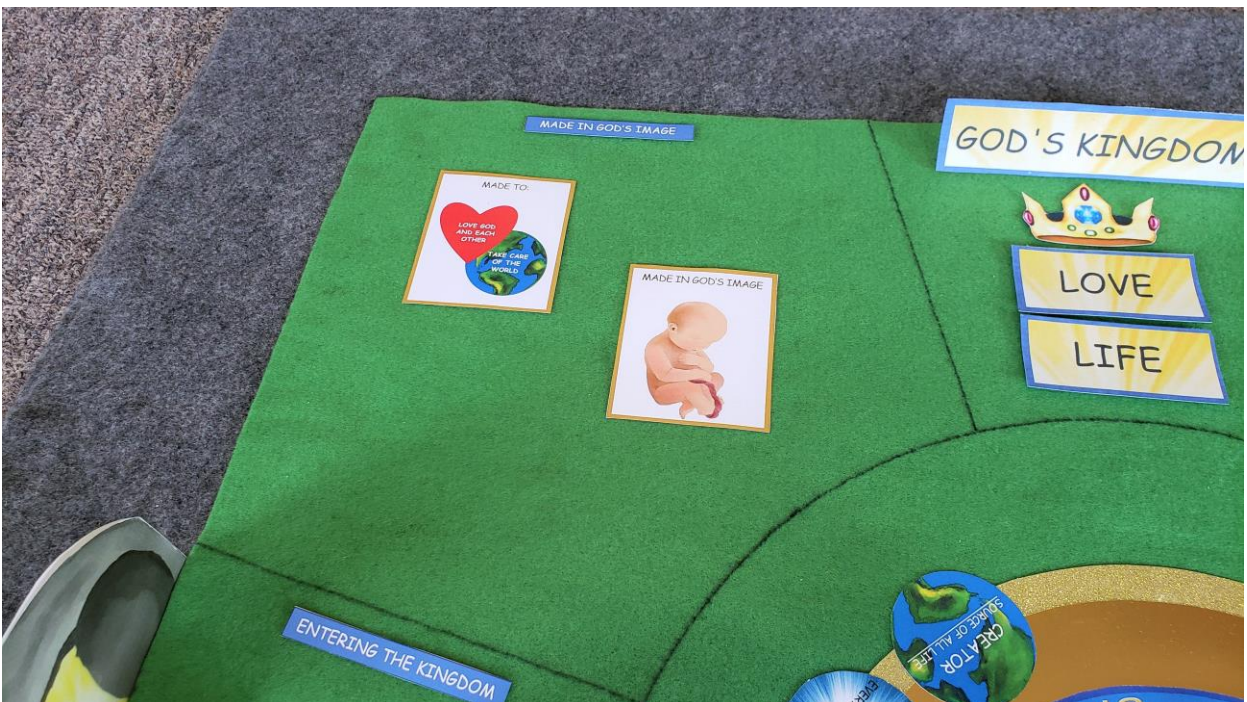
3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the **start** of the lesson.



Flannelgraph poster



This is how the Made in God's Image section should look at the **end** of the lesson. Leave all these the symbols on the storyboard for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Set up two teaching stations – one for the storyboard with flannelgraph nearby (or use a wall or poster instead). Set up a second teaching station for the mother/baby presentation. Start the lesson at the second station. (Optional: When the memory verse is read at the beginning of class, have the children make up actions as they say it.)*

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

STORY:

TEACHER: Who is looking forward to Christmas? What do we celebrate at Christmas? We celebrate the birth of Jesus. *(Hold up Year 1, Lesson #12 Christmas poster)*

Baby Jesus was different than other babies. The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have this special baby. He was a fully human baby, and he was also fully God.

The Holy Spirit formed baby Jesus in Mary's womb, that means inside her tummy. Jesus would have looked just like you and I did when we were growing inside our mother's womb.

TEACHER: Have you ever seen pictures of a baby when they are inside their mother's womb?

We have some very special guests with us today who will show us those kinds of pictures.

ACTION: *Introduce the visiting mom and baby and ask the mom to show ultrasound pictures and share briefly about how the baby was growing in her womb. Also show pictures of different stages of development of the unborn child, emphasizing that this is a human person right from the start even when they don't look like it yet.*

After this presentation, say goodbye to the mom and baby and go over to the storyboard and continue the lesson.

Ask for a volunteer to be the voice of God.

TEACHER: Isn't it amazing to see the miracle of how a human being is formed? Many animals grow inside their mothers' wombs too, but human beings are different from the animals.

(Hold up Year 1, Lesson #1 Creation poster) God made all things – the earth, the sky, the plants and all the animals.

But when God made people, he made them greater than the animals! Let's hear what God said about this: *(Put the verse on the flannelgraph.)*

GOD: "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over all the animals. So God created human beings in his own image... male and female he created them." (Gen 1:26-27)

TEACHER: Human beings are greater than the animals because we are made in God's image. *(Place "Made in God's Image" unit title on storyboard as shown.)*

Let's put this picture of an unborn child on our storyboard to remind us that we are made in the image of God even before we are born. *(Place "fetus" symbol on storyboard as shown.)*

Why did God create us in his image? He made us in his image so that we could have a loving relationship with him and with each other. He **also** created us to take care of the world that he made. *(Place "heart & earth" symbol as shown.)*

What does it mean that we are created in God's image? It means that we are like God in many ways. I have four cards here, that describe **how** we are like God. *(Hold up the first four word cards (intelligent, creative, speak, love). Hold them like a deck of cards with the words facing towards you so the children can't see them.)*

Who would like to choose one of these cards and put it on this board?

ACTION: *Have different children chose a card and put it on the flannelgraph. Teacher reads the word and says the explanation as outlined below. The four cards can be put up in whichever order they are chosen.*

TEACHER: We are **intelligent**. *(Child puts word card on the flannelgraph.)* Intelligent means smart and wise. God is so smart and wise, he created everything. God created **us** to be smart and wise enough to rule over the animals and take care of the world.

TEACHER: We are **creative**. *(Child puts word card on the flannelgraph.)* Creative means that we can use our imagination to make things. God is the great Creator.

He made everything out of nothing. We can use the things God made to make our own creations.

TEACHER: We can **speak**. *(Child puts word card on the flannelgraph.)* God created everything with his words. We can speak because God speaks. We can communicate our thoughts with words to each other and to God.

TEACHER: We can **love**. *(Child puts word card on the flannelgraph.)* God is love. He is the source of love. God created us for a loving relationship with him and each other.

TEACHER: *(Point to Year 1, Lesson #1 Creation poster.)* When God created human beings, he made them **male** and **female**. *(Teacher puts "male" and "female" word cards on the flannelgraph.)*

Who knows what the words male and female mean? *(Let children respond.)*

TEACHER: Yes, it means boys and girls. Boys and girls are different in many ways, but both are equally important and valuable. They each reflect God's image in their own special way.

Human life is sacred and holy because we are made in God's image and because Jesus took on human form to save us. Therefore, **every** person - from the tiniest baby in the womb to the oldest person – all are to be loved, cared for, and protected.

Can someone read our memory verse again? *(Hold memory verse for student to read. Optional: have children repeat actions to the verse. See "setup" on page 6.)*

STUDENT: "You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way." Psalm 139: 13–14.

TEACHER: Yes, God made our whole being, our body, mind, and soul, and we can thank and praise him for who he made us to be! God made each of us unique – one of a kind. There is only one of you and that makes you very special! God even gave each of us our very own fingerprint that is different from all others. *(Point to your finger.)* Even if you are identical twins, your fingerprints are different from each other. God gave you that fingerprint while you were still growing inside your mother's womb. *(Point to "fetus" symbol on storyboard.)* Right from the moment you were created in the womb, you were a human person. Even when you were so tiny in your mother's womb, you were still special, you were still you.

Life Application:

Take the children to the activity table and make fingerprints and compare them. The teacher can finish this activity time by praying this prayer:

TEACHER: Thank you, Heavenly Father, that you made us in your image even before we were born. You made each one of us unique and special. We praise you because you made us in an amazing and wonderful way. Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this lesson tell us about God?** (God has made us in his image. He is intelligent, Creator, he speaks, he is love)
- **Why did God create us in his image?** (God created us for a loving relationship with God and each other, and to take care of the world that he made.)
- **What does it mean that we are made in God's image?** (We are like God in many ways. We are different from the animals.)
- **What are some of the ways that we are like God?** (Intelligent, creative, can speak, can love)
- **Were you a human person before you were born?** (Yes, you were a human person right from the moment you were created inside your mother's womb. Right from the beginning, you were you.)
- **When God made people, he made them male and female, boys and girls. Are boys and girls different from each other?** (Yes, they are both human beings made in God's image, but they are different in many ways.)
- **Are boys and girls equally valuable and important?** (Yes, absolutely!)

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
- Making fingerprints using a non-toxic, washable ink pad. The fingerprints can be made on the art page of the Kingdom News.
- Take a picture of each child and create a digital card that says “[*Child's name*] is made in God's image”. Print out to display in classroom and e-mail copy to parents.

"You made my whole
being; you formed me
in my mother's body.
I praise you because
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(Psalm 139:13-14)