

*This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize the image of God in humanity. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.*

### Essential Doctrine: Image of God in Humanity

The image of God in humanity is understood as mirroring God's attributes in our nature, in our actions, and in our relational capacities. In Jesus, we see the true image of God. He perfectly mirrors God's attributes, fulfills God's will, and enjoys a perfect relationship with the Father. The Bible continues to speak of the image of God in humanity even after our fall into sin, even though our ability to rightly reflect God has been marred.

**Scripture:** *Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-5; 5:1-3; Romans 1:18-25; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18*

### 1 All people are created in God's image.

(Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1-3)

The creation account testifies to the fact that the creation of humanity is unique among the rest of the created order. No other parts of creation—not animals or planets—are said to bear the image of God like humanity. This doesn't mean that God must, in some way, physically look like us—having two arms, two legs, a body, and so forth. Instead, it means, among other things, that every human being on planet earth inherently possesses dignity, value, and worth as a result of bearing the image of our Maker.

### 2 Sin has distorted that image.

(Gen. 3:1-5; Rom. 1:18-25)

With sin came a distortion of the image of God within us. The image hasn't been done away with completely, but has, in essence, been contaminated from its original design and purpose. We no longer reflect God as in a mirror, the way we once did. Instead, the mirror now bears more resemblance of our sin and selfishness.

### 3 Jesus will one day restore God's image within us.

(2 Cor. 3:17-18)

Unlike us, Jesus has perfectly reflected the image of God in every way, and in Him believers will be continually renewed in God's image until they are one day completely restored at the return of Christ.

### Opening Activity

Gather baby pictures of church staff members and adult leaders in your student ministry. Create a slideshow with these pictures and list multiple choice options of who each baby might be. Allow students to get into groups and work together to match the correct name and picture. Consider awarding a small prize to the team who gets the most answers correct. Guide students to discuss what helped them determine who each baby was. Physical attributes, personality traits, and even mannerisms make us unique and recognizable to the world. God, in His infinite creativity, determined to shape every human life distinct with one common attribute—we are all created in His image.

### Worship/Playlist Ideas

- ▶ "Everything Glorious" by David Crowder Band  
(*Remedy*, Sparrow/sixstepsrecords, 2007)
- ▶ "All Things New" by Steven Curtis Chapman  
(*All Things New*, Sparrow, 2004)
- ▶ "Indescribable" by Chris Tomlin  
(*Arriving*, Sparrow/sixstepsrecords, 2004)
- ▶ He Knows My Name by Francesca Battistelli  
(*If We're Honest*, Word Entertainment, 2014)

### Video Idea(s)

- ▶ "God Made Me Perfect" from *Toby Making Friends*  
(Bugbox Animation, 2013) [WingClips.com](http://WingClips.com)

*This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize the image of God in humanity. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.*

### Essential Doctrine: Image of God in Humanity

The image of God in humanity is understood as mirroring God's attributes in our nature, actions, and relational capacities. In Jesus, we see the true image of God. He perfectly mirrors God's attributes, fulfills God's will, and enjoys a perfect relationship with the Father. The Bible continues to speak of the image of God in humanity even after our fall into sin, even though our ability to rightly reflect God has been marred.

### 1 All people are created in God's image. (Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1-3)

Option: Provide paper and pens. Instruct students to draw a stick figure representing themselves. Encourage them to illustrate or describe any physical attributes or personality traits that are similar to their parents. (Even adopted children pick up certain traits from their adoptive parents.) After a few minutes, allow volunteers to share their drawings.

#### Read Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-3.

##### ▶ *In whose image are we created?*

The creation account testifies to the fact that the creation of humanity is unique among the rest of the created order. No other parts of creation—not animals or planets—are said to bear the image of God like humanity.

##### ▶ *What do you think it means to be made in His image?*

This doesn't mean that God physically looks like us—having two arms, two legs, a body, and so forth. Instead, it means that every human being has His imprint on their lives. He shaped us with unique qualities given to no other created thing—attributes that reflect Him, such as an eternal nature, the capacity to give and receive love, free will, and so forth.

##### ▶ *Does believing you were made in God's image change the way you see yourself? the way you see others? Explain.*

### 2 Sin has distorted that image. (Gen. 3:1-5; Rom. 1:18-25)

##### ▶ *Agree or disagree with the following proverb: A half-truth is a whole lie.*

##### ▶ *What does it mean to bend the truth?*

#### Read Genesis 3:1-5.

##### ▶ *What truth did Satan bend? How does He continue to bend the truth today? (You'll get to heaven as long as you're a good person; your parents are out of touch and don't understand you; a little lie won't hurt anyone; etc.)*

#### Read Romans 1:18-25.

##### ▶ *How does God make Himself evident among us today? (i.e.: creation, His Word)*

##### ▶ *How does sin prevent us from recognizing God? How does giving in to sin prevent us from reflecting God to others?*

Sin has distorted the image of God within us. The image hasn't been done away with completely, but has, in essence, been contaminated from its original design and purpose.

##### ▶ *How could knowing that you are accountable to God help you recognize and turn from sin?*

### 3 Jesus will one day restore God's image within us. (2 Cor. 3:17-18)

##### ▶ *When you're getting ready in the morning, how much time do you spend looking in the mirror? Why?*

#### Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

##### ▶ *What does Paul say we are to reflect? Why?*

##### ▶ *What does it mean to reflect God "as in a mirror"? What do we often reflect instead of God's glory?*

We no longer reflect God as in a mirror, the way we once did. Instead, the mirror now bears more resemblance of our sin and selfishness.

##### ▶ *Who is the perfect reflection of God?*

Unlike us, Jesus has perfectly reflected the image of God in every way, and in Him believers will be continually renewed in God's image until they are one day completely restored at the return of Christ.

### WRAP IT UP

##### ▶ *How can we learn to better reflect God's glory?*

As we spend time in God's Word and grow in our relationship with Him, we will become more and more like Him.

##### ▶ *How is Jesus working in your life to help you reflect the glory of God?*