

Image Bearer – Week 1

High School Ministry Teaching Guide

BIG IDEA

You were created to reflect God's glory, but sin broke that reflection. Jesus came to restore it.

BIBLE

Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 3;
Matthew 26:36-46

ABOUT THIS WEEK

The world tells us to define ourselves by likes, achievements, labels, or how we feel. But the Bible says our true identity starts with who God is—and who He made us to be. In this series, we'll learn what it means to be made in God's image, how Jesus gives us a new identity, and how we can reflect Him through our worship, our gifts, and our lives.

WHAT?

- In a world trying to define us by our status, emotions, or mistakes, the Bible gives us a much better answer: You were made to reflect the image of God.
- Genesis 1:26-28 (literally the first page of the Bible) teaches us that we were made in God's image. This doesn't necessarily mean that we physically resemble God, but that we were created to mirror His characteristics – what He is like.
- "Made In His Image" (Imago Dei) means we are hardwired with dignity, creativity, and purpose. We're meant to reflect His goodness and character into the world like mirrors reflect light.
- In Genesis 3, sin entered the story and fractured that reflection. Shame, fear, hiding, and insecurity became normal.
- This wasn't just about eating fruit – it was about trusting a lie: "You can define yourself better than God can."
- But then, by contrast we see Jesus. When in His own garden, He chooses a better way. "Not my will, but yours be done."
- Through His death and resurrection, Jesus makes it possible for our broken identity to be restored.

SO WHAT?

- Identity is one of the most contest areas of your life right now: You're told to define yourself by your feelings, your GPA, your likes, or your relationship status.
- But all of that changes. And chasing those things leaves you exhausted, insecure, or confused.
- **TRUTH: You were made in the image of God-before you accomplished anything, proved anything, or fixed anything.**
- Sin distorts our identity. But Jesus restores our identity.
- 2 Important questions to ask: What lies have shaped your identity? What would it look like to see yourself as someone God created with worth and purpose?

NOW WHAT?

- Challenge: This week, pay attention to the voices shaping your identity: Are they drawing you toward God's truth or away from it?
- Write down one truth from Scripture that reminds you of who you are in Christ.
- Write down the area where you feel most insecure, and ask God what He says about you instead.

