

Image Bearer – Week 1

Middle 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?

- 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. We were made to reflect His goodness, creativity, kindness, and love.
- But something went wrong. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve sinned. They chose their own way instead of God’s – they “cracked” the reflection.
- **Illustration:** Hold up a mirror and then crack or distort the image (or show a picture of a broken mirror). Ask, “What happens to the reflection when the mirror is broken?” That’s what sin does to our identity.
- But there is an alternative. In Matthew 26:36-46, Jesus does what humanity couldn’t. When He was in His own garden, with His own decision to make, Jesus chose to say yes to God’s way, even when it was hard.
- Because of Jesus, we can start to reflect God again.

SO WHAT?

- Our identity isn’t found in popularity, achievements, or feelings. When we look for it in those places, it’s like looking into a broken mirror, trying to see clearly.
- Instead, our identity is found in realizing that we are made by God and for God.
- Sin tries to twist that identity, but Jesus came to make things right again.
- When we choose to follow Jesus, we start to look more like Him—like a mirror being repaired so we can see correctly.
- You might feel pressure to be funny, smarty, pretty, athletic, or cool. But those aren’t the things that define who you are. God already said who you are—you were made to reflect Him.

NOW WHAT?

- Challenge: This week, when you look in a mirror, remember, “I was made to reflect God.”
- Ask: “Am I reflecting God in how I treat people? In what I say? In what I post?”

Optional Give Away: A sticker or mirror decal that says, “Made in His Image”