



## **BIG IDEA**

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

## **BIBLE**

Genesis 1:26–28; Genesis 3:1–7; Matthew 26:36–39

## **ABOUT THIS WEEK**

You were created to reflect God's goodness and glory to the world. But sin cracked that reflection—leading to confusion and broken identity. Jesus came to restore what was lost so you can live out your true purpose.

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

### **SERIES INTRODUCTION**

- Let's start with a question...
  - **Who are you, really?**
- Not just your name, your GPA, your sport, or your feed—but underneath it all—**who are you?**
- We're kicking off a series called *Image Bearers*, and it's all about identity.
- Because the world is shouting at you to define yourself by what you do, what you wear, who you're with, and how you feel.
- But God says something radically different:
  - "You were made to reflect Me."

### **HOOK – Imagine a broken mirror**

- Have you ever looked in the mirror and felt... off?
    - Like, no matter what you change—your hair, your clothes, your vibe—something still feels out of place?
  - Or maybe it's deeper—maybe you feel pressure to be someone you're not, just to feel accepted.
  - It's like trying to fix your reflection when the mirror itself is cracked. That's what sin did.
  - We were made to reflect God's image, but sin distorted it. So we spend our lives chasing identity in all the wrong places.
  - The good news? That's not the end of the story.
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### How did God design us?

- Read **Genesis 1:26-28**
- You were created in God's image. That means you were designed with purpose, beauty, and the capacity to reflect His love, creativity, and character into the world.

### What Happened?

- Read **Genesis 3:1-7**
- But then Adam and Eve believed a lie: "God is holding out on you. You can define yourself better without Him."
- That decision broke something—not just in their story, but in every human heart since.
- Sin cracked the mirror. And now we live with insecurity, shame, and confusion about who we really are.

### How does Jesus show us another way?

- But Jesus steps into the story—and in another garden, He chooses obedience over rebellion.
- Where Adam and Eve said, "My way," Jesus said, "Your will be done."
- He came not just to forgive us—but to restore us. To make us whole again. To rebuild the reflection we lost.

## *SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?*

### Listening to the one voice that matters

- You are not a collection of mistakes, filters, or expectations.
- You are not just your grades, your followers, or your emotions.
- You were made to reflect the God who made you.
- And if your identity feels cracked, confused, or lost—Jesus is the one who restores it.
- But restoration doesn't happen by performing—it happens by surrendering.

### What is an image-bearer?

- So, what does this repaired image look like?
- It's recognizing that you were made in the image of God and nothing can take that away from you.
- Being made in the image of God doesn't mean that God physically looks like us. It means that we were made with...
  - ...Intrinsic value that can't be taken away
  - ... The ability to reflect Him wherever we go.
- Imagine one more time that you are on that deserted island. Even if you strip away your likes, follows, activities, whether certain things do or don't work out for you, whether other people like you or not, whether you feel like you fit in or not...
- You will always be a child made in the image of God, and that encourages us to live a life that's bursting with meaning and purpose.
- But it also requires us to remember who we were made to be, even when we don't feel like it or the world around us tells us otherwise.

## *NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?*

### So what do we do now?

- So here's the challenge:  
This week, slow down and ask yourself:
  - **"What version of myself am I reflecting right now—and is it aligned with who God says I am?"**
- If the answer is no, don't fake it. Don't fix it alone.
- Ask Jesus to meet you right where you are—and begin the restoration.
- This week, when you look in the mirror, remember: **"I was made to reflect God's glory."**

### Closing Prayer and Dismissal to Small Group

- "God, You created us in Your image. But we've believed lies and chased things that cracked the reflection. Thank You for sending Jesus—not just to forgive us, but to restore us. Help us live out of the identity You've already spoken over us. Amen."