



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

- Hey everyone! This week, we are starting a series called *Image Bearer*.
- That phrase might sound a little weird at first, but here's the idea behind it:
 - You were made on purpose, by God, to reflect Him to the world around you.
- But if we're honest, that reflection doesn't always feel clear. Sometimes it's cracked, messy, or confusing.
- In this series, we're going to be asking five key questions to help us clearly see who God has made us to be:
 - Who am I?
 - What's my purpose?
 - What do I care most about?
 - Am I enough?
 - What am I good at, and why does it matter?
- But today, we're going to start with the question: "Who am I really?"
- And I want you to think about this in a rather interesting way. Imagine you were on a desert island all alone. No school, no friends, no extra-curricular activities, or ways to pass the time... who would you be? At your core? That's what we're going to talk about today.

HOOK – Imagine a broken mirror

- Have you ever looked in the mirror and thought, "Ugh... what is happening?"
 - Maybe your hair was wild. Maybe you had toothpaste on your face. Or maybe... you just didn't like what you saw.
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- Now imagine that mirror is cracked. Even if you're standing in front of it, what you see is distorted. It's not accurate anymore.
- That's kind of like what happened to our identity. God made us to reflect Him—like a mirror—but something messed up the reflection.

How did God design us?

- Read **Genesis 1:26-28**
- God made you and me to reflect who He is—to show the world His love, creativity, kindness, and strength.
- You're not an accident. You're made to reflect something bigger than yourself.

What Happened?

- Read **Genesis 3:1-7**
- But then... something went wrong. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Sin entered the world, and it cracked the mirror.
- Now people hide, compare, fight, and doubt who they are. Sin didn't just break rules—it broke our reflection of God.

How does Jesus show us another way?

- But here's the good news: Jesus came to fix what was broken.
- And He showed us the key to getting back on track.
- When He was in His own garden with His own decision to make, look at how Jesus responded differently from Adam and Eve.
- Read **Matthew 26:36-39**
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faced the hardest decision: follow God's plan—or take an easier way out.
- And He said, "Not my will, but Yours be done."
- Where Adam and Eve said "no" to God, Jesus said "yes."
He made it possible for your reflection to be restored—to reflect God again.

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

Listening to the one voice that matters

- Middle school is full of voices trying to tell you who you are:
 - Be funnier
 - Be prettier
 - Be better
 - Be anyone *but* who you are
- But none of those voices made you. God did.
- You were made to reflect Him, not likes, trends, or perfection.
- And even when the reflection feels broken, Jesus is in the business of restoring it.

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?

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So what do we do now?

- This week, every time you look in a mirror—at home, at school, wherever—ask yourself this:
“Am I reflecting God in the way I live today?”
 - Not perfectly. Not fake. But honestly.
Am I showing kindness? Truth? Love? Patience?
- If you’re not sure where to start, ask Jesus to help you. He’s the one who restores what’s broken.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal to Small Group

- “God, thank You for making us in Your image. Even though sin messed things up, thank You for sending Jesus to restore what was broken. Help us live as people who reflect You—not just in church, but in every part of our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.”