

SAMPLE SESSION

DEFINED

WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE

A STUDY ON IDENTITY FOR KIDS



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INTRODUCTION & TABLE OF CONTENTS

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We believe the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

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DEFINED: WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE (005814776) is an eight-week Bible study guiding kids to their identity in Christ, based on selected passages from Ephesians. This study can be used in church for any size group or in a family setting. Throughout the eight meetings, kids will learn that God created them and defines their purpose and identity. Consider using this study in conjunction with adult and students studies of **DEFINED: WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE**.

Because of the nature of the study, each child will need her own activity book. *Defined: Who God Says You Are Younger Kids Activity Book* (005814773) and *Defined: Who God Says You Are Older Kids Activity Book* (005814775) include 80 pages of activities to guide kids as they learn about their identity in Christ. Games, activities, puzzles, deeper study guides, journaling pages, and parent pages are provided for kids to support each of the eight meetings of **DEFINED: WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE**. Actual products may differ slightly in appearance to pages shown.

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Created by God

KEY VERSE: "FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN
CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED
AHEAD OF TIME FOR US TO DO."

EPHESIANS 2:10

THROUGH THIS STUDY, KIDS CAN ...



KNOW

God created people
in His image and for
His glory.



UNDERSTAND

God has the
authority to
determine our
identity and
purpose.



DISCOVER

The Bible helps us
know what being
created in God's
image means.



INITIATE

You Will Need:

2 sheets of yellow paper, 2 sheets of blue paper, tape

To Do:

Attach each sheet of paper to a different wall or as far apart as practical on one wall.

Teaching Tips:

If your space is small, make a tape line on the floor. Direct kids to straddle the line and move from left to right to show their choices rather than moving to different signs.

If your group is mostly older kids, consider directing them to move to the correct signs within 3 seconds.

WHO I AM

- Call attention to the papers on the walls. Tell kids you will make statements and assign a color to go with the answers. Explain that kids will move to the color sign that fits them. Kids should return to the center of the play area before the next statement is given.
- Name one of these choices and direct kids to the colors that show their answers.
 - If you have blonde or brown hair, move to the yellow sign. If you have black or red hair, move to the blue sign.
 - If you like pizza best, move to the blue sign. If you like chicken nuggets best, move to the yellow sign.
- Continue using these choices: smelling cinnamon or smelling vanilla, swimming or playing video games, skipping or running, blue/green eyes or brown/black eyes, playing board games or working puzzles, singing or reading.
- Comment that during this Bible study, kids can learn that God made each of them in His image and for His glory. Explain that kids can learn more about what being made in God's image means as they study the Bible.

INQUIRE

You Will Need:

Item 4: “Key Passage Poster”
6 note cards, markers or pens, scissors,

To Do:

On each note card, print a different Bible reference from this list:
Genesis 1:3-5; Genesis 1:6-8; Genesis 1:9-12; Genesis 1:13-19;
Genesis 1:20-23; Genesis 1:24-25.

Print the “Key Passage Poster” and display each verse on a large focal wall. Print 1 additional copy of verse 10. Cut verse 10 apart to make 6 different phrases: *For we are His workmanship; created in Christ Jesus; for good works; which God prepared; ahead of time; for us to do.* Eph. 2:10

Teaching Tips:

If you teach a small group of kids, let them work in pairs, but give them two cards to research.

OPEN UP: TRACK THE DAYS

- Form six groups. Give each group a paper and markers. Explain that kids have probably heard the story of creation many times, but today they will research the Bible verses printed on their cards. Lead kids to work in their groups to find and read the Bible passage together. Kids will record on the papers what God made in their assigned verses. Allow several minutes of work.
- Call the groups back together. Let each group share their findings and post their paper on the wall. Note for kids that no one shared what happened on the last day.
- Explain that God created everything for His glory, and He made people special from the rest of creation. He made us in His image. Ask kids what they think it means to be made in God’s image.
- Open your Bible to Genesis 2:1-25. Tell the following Bible story in your own words or use the story provided.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY: CREATED BY GOD

On the sixth day of creation, God created people. He said, “Let’s make man in our image. They will rule over the whole earth and take care of all living creatures.”

So God made man and woman in His image. God formed the man, Adam, from the dust of the ground. God breathed into him the breath of life. Adam became a living being. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden where all kinds of trees grew. A river watered the garden. Adam worked the garden and took care of it. God told Adam, “You may eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from it, you will die.”

Then God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” So God decided to make a helper for the man. God brought all the animals to Adam, and Adam named them. But none of the animals was a good helper for the man. So God put Adam into a deep sleep. He took one of the man’s ribs and closed the man’s side. God took the rib and made a woman!

God took the woman to Adam. Adam was extremely happy when he saw Eve. “This one, at last,” he said, “is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.”

The woman was a perfect helper for the man; she was his wife.

God blessed Adam and Eve and provided everything they needed.

That was the end of the sixth day. On the seventh day, God stopped and rested because He had completed His work.

— based on Genesis 1-2

MAKE THE CONNECTION

- As our Creator, God determines the value and purpose of His creation. In other words, God has the authority to define what is true about His creation. He defines its identity.
- Remark that a person’s identity is who God says he or she is. Read Colossians 1:15-17 aloud. Tell boys and girls that since Jesus has all power and authority, He has the authority to determine who we are and our purpose in life. He has the authority to determine our identity.

DEEPER STUDY

- Point out that being made in God's image means to have some characteristics that are like God, or to be patterned after Him. Ask kids to raise their hands if they have the ability to think and reason. Mention that thinking and reasoning is one way people are made in God's image. Ask kids to raise their hands if they can make choices. Note that making choices is a way people are made in God's image. Ask kids to raise their hands if they have the ability to make promises. Continue with these questions: Who can be creative? Who can learn right from wrong? After each one, remark that it is a way people are made in God's image.
- Remind kids that God does not have a physical body; He is Spirit, and He has given each of us a spirit. (See John 4:24.) God gives people the ability to think and to feel emotions and to make choices. He gives us the ability to understand right and wrong. In this way we are made in His image.
- Explain that we can learn about being made in God's image throughout the Bible, not just in Genesis. Direct kids to locate Ephesians 1:1 in their Bibles. Tell kids the Book of Ephesians is a letter to people who lived in the city of Ephesus. The letter was written long after God created the world. It was written several years after Jesus returned to heaven. Read the verse together. Help kids decide from the verse who wrote the letter and who received the letter. Tell kids that Paul wrote this letter while in prison because He told people about Jesus. Point out that the saints, in this verse, are people who have trusted Jesus as Savior. Paul was writing to the Christians in Ephesus.
- Remark that Paul's letter teaches more about God's creation of people. Direct kids to Ephesians 1:4. Ask, "When did God plan for people?" (*Before He created the world*) Continue directing kids to the different verses and asking the appropriate questions:
 - (v.7) What can Jesus provide for a person? (*redemption and forgiveness from sin according to His grace*)
 - (v.20) Who raised Jesus from the dead? (*God the Father*)
 - (vv. 20-22) What did God put Jesus above? (*everything*)
- Point out that kids expressed characteristics about themselves as they played the opening game, telling what they were like. Remind kids that all people are made in God's image and for His glory. Being made in God's image is not really about how we look; it is about who we are and what God created us to do.
- When we say God created us in His image, it means we have many similar qualities to God. He gave us these qualities so that we could glorify Him in unique ways. We can use our intelligence, emotions, and creativity to

think about, love, and worship God. Our identity is who God says we are. Explain that we will learn more about our identity throughout this study.

- Lead kids to find Psalm 139:13-14 in their Bibles. Let volunteers tell from verse 14 the results of how God formed them. (*Wonderfully made*) Explain that God made people in just the right way to accomplish God's plan for them.
- Direct kids to Acts 17:24-25. Ask what these verses teach us about God. (*God made the world and everything in it; He has all authority; He is the Creator of everything*) Direct kids to read verse 26. Ask what this verse teaches us about people. (*From Adam, God has made every nation; God has determined the time and boundaries of where people live*) Explain that God chose us in all ways—who we are, where we are, when we live—for His purposes and His glory.

MEMORIZE

- Explain that during the study, the group will work to memorize Ephesians 2:1-10. During this session, kids will work to memorize the last verse of the passage because it sums up the whole passage.
- Display the verse strips created from the opening activity in order. Lead the group to read the verse aloud together. Explain that all people are made by God and for His glory. People are created in God's image. Point out that Ephesians 2:10 teaches God planned for people to do good works. God prepared the way ahead of people. He wants people to live according to His plan.
- Lead the group to read the verse aloud together several times. Form two groups and let them alternate turns to read the verse phrases. Then remove one section. Direct kids to read the verse again, filling in the missing section. Replace the section and remove a different section. Continue several times. Then stop replacing sections as kids repeat the verse. Keep going until kids are saying the verse from memory.

PRAY

- Ask what people often do when they are in the presence of kings or other important people. (*Kneel, bow, shake hands*) Suggest kids kneel beside their chairs as they pray to remind them that God is the One who created them. Urge kids to pray silently as you suggest things they might pray.
- Say, "Praise God for two things you like about Him." Pause as kids pray quietly. Continue in the same way with these suggestions: "Thank God for a way you are made in His image. Think about the way God made you to be and thank Him for making you exactly who you are." End with, "Amen."

INVESTIGATE

You Will Need:

Activity Books, pencils

- Transition kids into small groups, dividing them into an older group and a younger group. If you have a large group of either older or younger kids, form groups of about 5 or 6 kids. Distribute the Activity Books and pencils. Direct the boys and girls to write their names on the outside front cover.
- Explain to the group that each week they will have pages in the Activity Books to complete. Call attention to the puzzles and fun activities that can help them learn more about God and their relationship with Him. Also point out the daily pages where they can write about what they are learning.
- Complete the Activity Book activities for this session. As kids work, talk with them about today's Bible story and about being created in the image of God. Point out the pages for kids to complete at home. Explain that working on these pages can help them learn more about being created in God's image. Encourage kids to continue their study during the coming week.

MAKE AND PLAY A GIANT SHUFFLEBOARD GAME

You Will Need:

Item 4: "Key Passage Poster"

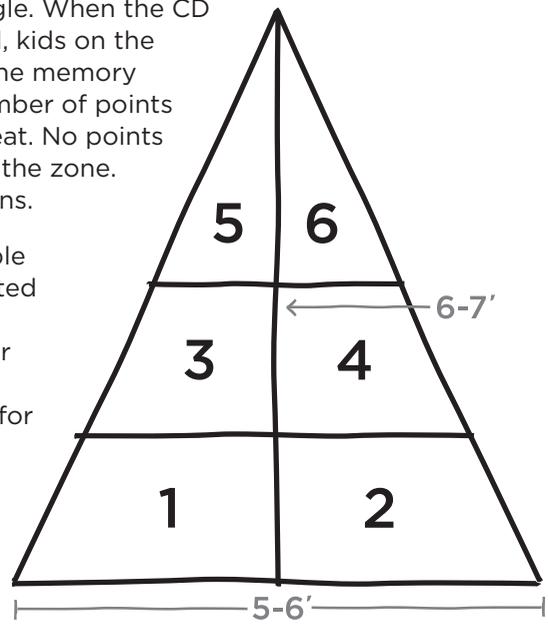
Masking tape, a yardstick, a CD, and the Ephesians 2:10 phrases used during group study

Teaching Tips:

If you have carpet rather than a smooth floor, make the game on a large sheet of paper, or make a smaller version of the game on a tabletop and use a ruler and a coin.

- Suggest the group make a shuffleboard game to help them continue learning Ephesians 2:10.

- Guide the kids to create the gameboard on the floor using tape: Mark a triangle base about 5 or 6 feet long. Starting at the middle of the baseline, use tape to make a vertical line about 6 or 7 feet tall. Connect each end of the baseline to the top of the vertical tape. Make two tape lines across the triangle so that you form six different sections on the gameboard. Let kids add another tape line to designate the beginning of the sliding zone about 1 foot below the baseline.
- Direct boys and girls to locate Ephesians 2:10 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together. Review the meaning of the verse. *(All people are made by God. People are created in God's image. God planned for people to do good works. God prepared the way ahead of people. He wants people to do His plan.)*
- Place the memory verse phrases in order to the side of the gameboard.
- Form two teams. Explain that kids will take turns kneeling at the sliding zone line and using a yardstick to push a CD forward. Assign each section of the gameboard a number from 1 to 6 with lower numbers at the bottom of the triangle. When the CD lands in a section of the gameboard, kids on the team repeat that many phrases of the memory verse. Teams can earn the same number of points as the number of sections they repeat. No points are awarded if the CD goes outside the zone. The first team to reach 20 points wins.
- Play the game. During the first couple of rounds, kids may look at the printed phrases and read them. After that, announce that kids may double their earned points if they can say the phrases by memory. Play the game for as many rounds as time allows.



tape line marks beginning of sliding zone
(all black lines made with tape)

CREATE DUCT TAPE ID TAGS

You Will Need:

Plain paper, clear packing tape, duct tape in different colors and/or designs, scissors, hole punch, pens or pencils, cardstock cut into 1-by-2-inch rectangles, and leather cord or plastic lacing

To Do:

Practice making an ID tag holder before the session. Provide a flat, smooth work space.

Teaching Tips:

Younger children may need help folding their tape without leaving wrinkles. Assure them that the wrinkles will not hurt their project. Assist them in trimming edges.

- Direct kids to locate Ephesians 1:4 in their Bibles. Call on a volunteer to read the verse. Remind kids that God planned for them and all people before He created the world.
- Ask kids to recall different ways they are made in God's image. (*Ability to think; have a spirit, can make choices, creative, can learn right from wrong*) Print each answer on a sheet of paper.
- Suggest the kids make ID tags to remind them that their identity—who they are—is who God says they are.
- Give each kid a 6-inch piece of packing tape to fold in half sticky-side to sticky-side, keeping the tape as smooth as possible. Assist kids in trimming their tape to about 1½ inch by 2½ inch. Explain that the tape will become a window for the ID tag holder.
- Distribute one 14-inch piece of duct tape to each child. Help kids fold the tape in half, sticky side to sticky side, to form a 7-inch piece and then in half again to about 3½ inches. Kids need to press down the folds. Guide the kids to position their clear tape windows on one side of the folded tape. Let the child place a little tape on each side of the window to hold it in place. Then the child may use a thin tape strip along each long side to seal the edge, then do the same to the other edge. (This will also help to anchor the window in place.)
- Instruct the kids to use one of the cards and to print their name and information about what they are like, such as hair and eye color, something they like to do, or something they like to eat. Encourage kids

to write, “I am who God says I am” on their card. That card slides into the clear pocket on the front of the tape pouch.

- Lead the kids to write other cards to go inside of the pouch. Explain that these cards will have information about ways they are created in God’s image. (*Ability to think; have a spirit, can make choices, creative, can learn right from wrong*)
- Kids will place these cards inside the pouch. Let kids punch holes in a top corner of the ID pouch, then add a leather cord to tie the pouch to a suitcase, backpack, or lunch bag.
- Challenge kids to remember both the ways they are made in God’s image and the ways they have identity in Jesus.

INCREASE

You Will Need:

Bell (or other noise maker), aluminum foil, a permanent marker, and a gift bag or bowl

To Do:

Cut 14 foil strips about 1-inch wide. On 5 strips, draw a star. On 5 strips, draw a question mark. On the other strips, print these Bible references: Ephesians 1:4; Ephesians 1:22; Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:7. Place the foil strips in the bag.

Teaching Tips:

Use these review questions with the foil strip activity.

- When did God decide to create people? (*Before He made the world, Ephesians 1:4*)
- What is a way people are made in God’s image? (*Ability to think, have a spirit, can make choices, can learn right from wrong, creative*)
- From what did God create the first man? (*Dust, Genesis 2:7*)
- From what did God create the first woman? (*Man’s rib, Genesis 2:21-22*)
- Who wrote the Book of Ephesians? (*Paul, Ephesians 1:1*)

- Instruct kids to begin walking around the room in random ways as they listen to these instructions: When you hear the bell, find another person and ask, “Who are you?” The other person must answer the question

without using the word “I” or her name. Then the other person asks “Who are you?” The kid must respond without using “I” or her name. Tell kids that if the other person does use his name or “I,” he may make a loud wrong-answer beep. Suggest kids use answers such as “a lefty,” “a soccer player,” or “someone who likes to read.” When kids hear the bell again, they will begin walking until the bell sounds again. This time, each child must find a different person to partner with for the questions and answers. Keep playing until kids have had four or five turns to answer.

- Explain God made each of us uniquely, but He made all of us in His image. We can know that God, in His authority, determines our identity and our purpose. Call on a volunteer to thank God for making people in His own image and for providing the Bible to help us know more about what that means.
- Present the bag of foil strips. Call for a volunteer to gently remove a strip from the bag. Explain that if the strip has a star on it, the group will repeat Ephesians 2:10 together. If the foil strip has a Bible reference on it, everyone will locate the Bible verse and one person will read it aloud. If the strip has a question mark on it, the child who chose the strip will choose a review question to ask the group. Keep playing until all the strips have been chosen.
- As kids leave, remind them to take their Activity Books and complete this week’s activity pages at home. Assure kids they will not have to share any personal information or thoughts they record in their books. Challenge them to remember to bring their books with them for the next meeting.



Created by God



CREATE—

to make, for, and bring into being

Only God is the true Creator.
He can create something from nothing!



KNOW

God created people
in His image and for
His glory.



UNDERSTAND

God has the
authority to
determine our
identity and
purpose.



DISCOVER

The Bible helps us
know what being
created in God's
image means.

WHO AM I?

Each question has an arrow leading to a piece of the question mark. Read a question, then draw or write your answer in the matching piece of the question mark. Then answer the question in the dot below the question mark.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE FREE TIME?

GOD MADE YOU ABLE TO KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG. WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT TO DO?

GOD MADE YOU ABLE TO LOVE OTHERS. WHO ARE THREE PEOPLE YOU LOVE?

WHAT COLOR ARE YOUR EYES AND HAIR?

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED HOW TO DO FROM YOUR FAMILY?

WHO CREATED YOU IN HIS IMAGE?

DIGGING DEEPER

The Bible tells who God is and what He is like. Find and read a Bible verse listed below. Decide which title for God matches the verse. Draw a line from the verse to the answer. Do the same for each Bible reference.

GENESIS 1:1	FATHER
PSALM 145:3	LORD
PSALM 121:8	CREATOR
MATTHEW 6:9	PROTECTOR

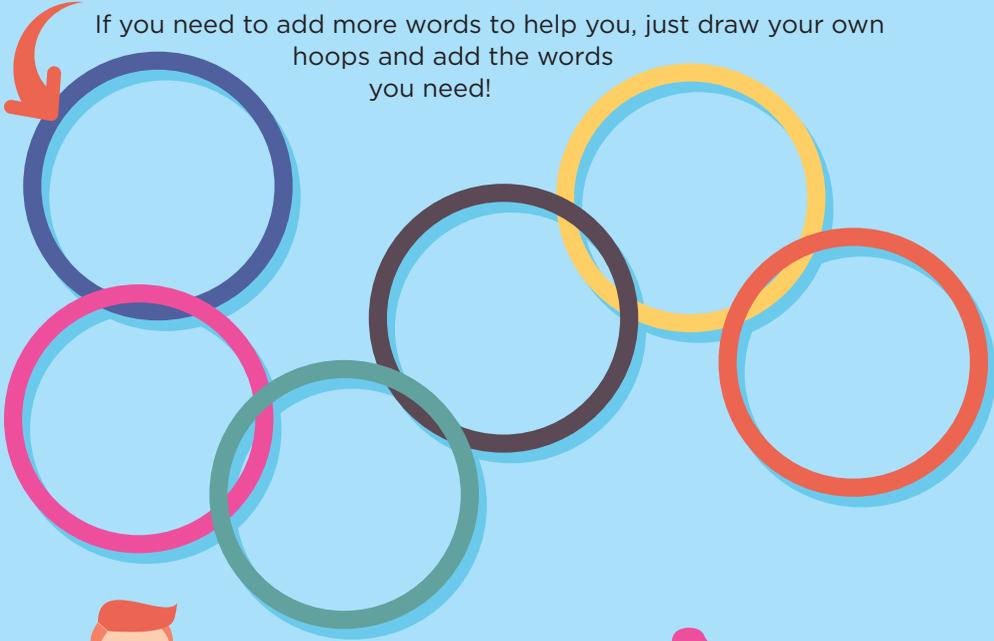
God made each person in His image. He made us to be like Him in some ways, such as being creative, loving others, and protecting those in need. God gave us these qualities so we can glorify Him in unique ways. As you think about what God is like, notice the things you can also do.



JUMP THE HOOPS!

Read Ephesians 2:10. Look for 6 words that stand out to you in the verse. Print each word you choose in a different hoop, starting with the first hoop. Use these words to help you remember the verse. Put a finger on the first hoop. Say the section of the verse with that word. Move to the pink hoop and say that part of the verse. Keep going until you have said the entire verse. Practice until you can say the verse by memory.

If you need to add more words to help you, just draw your own hoops and add the words you need!



DIGGING DAILY

Digging in the Bible means...

- reading Bible verses
- thinking about what the verses mean
- discovering what God wants you to know

At the end of each week's study, you will have a page to use privately as you talk to God in prayer. (Note: The journal page is not included in this sampler.)

Each day will have a Bible passage for you to read and think about. Each day will also have space for you to journal your thoughts, feelings, and questions to God. Now, get digging!



READ GENESIS 1:1, 3, 7, 9, 14, 20, 24

List the things God created in the first six days.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

Make a happy face beside the thing you are happiest that God made. Circle the words below that describe God. Mark out any words that do not belong.

CREATOR

POWERFUL

IN CONTROL

LAZY

What are some things you want to talk to God about in prayer?.....

.....

.....

.....



GENESIS 1:26-28

God created people in His image. This isn't about how you look as much as how you are made inside. God made you to love, to serve others, to be creative, to care for His world, and many other things. What might God want you to do because of the way He made you? Think about your answer and write it below. (You can use a code if you want to keep your answer private.)

.....
.....

What are some things you want to talk to God about in prayer?

.....
.....
.....
.....



READ ACTS 17:24-26

Some people believe God created the world and then left it alone. What do today's Bible verses tell you about whether that is true or not? Look especially at verse 26.

.....
.....

Verse 26 tells two things God decides about every person. What are they?

- 1)
- 2)

What are some things you want to talk to God about in prayer?

.....
.....
.....
.....



DAY

4

READ PSALM 139:13-16

When did God start caring for David, the man who wrote this psalm? (Hint: the answer is in verse 16.)

.....
.....

God has always had a plan for you. He does not force people to follow His plan, but He does have a plan. Unscramble the words below to discover some ways you can know God's plan for you.

EARD THE ELIBB

LISTEN TO RETSAHCE

LISTEN TO RETSPAN

YARP

EARLN LEIBB SESVER

LISTEN TO THE REAPCHRE

What are some things you want to talk to God about in prayer?

.....
.....
.....



DAY

5

READ JEREMIAH 31:3

Forever is a very long time! What does this verse teach you about God's love for you?

.....

Make a list of ways God shows His love to you. Pray, thanking God for loving you forever.

.....
.....



Created by God



CREATE—

to make, for, and bring into being

Only God is the true Creator.
He can create something from nothing!



KNOW

God created people
in His image and for
His glory.



UNDERSTAND

God has the
authority to
determine our
identity and
purpose.



DISCOVER

The Bible helps us
know what being
created in God's
image means.

GOD MADE ME

Read each question, then write your answer on the question mark. Think about who God made you to be.



DIGGING DEEPER

Knowing what God is like helps us know who He is. That is the beginning of knowing more about who God created us to be. Locate and read these verses, then make your own list telling what God is like. Then put a star next to your favorite one.

- Psalm 46:1
- Psalm 86:5
- Psalm 86:10
- 1 John 4:8

Why did you choose the one with the star?

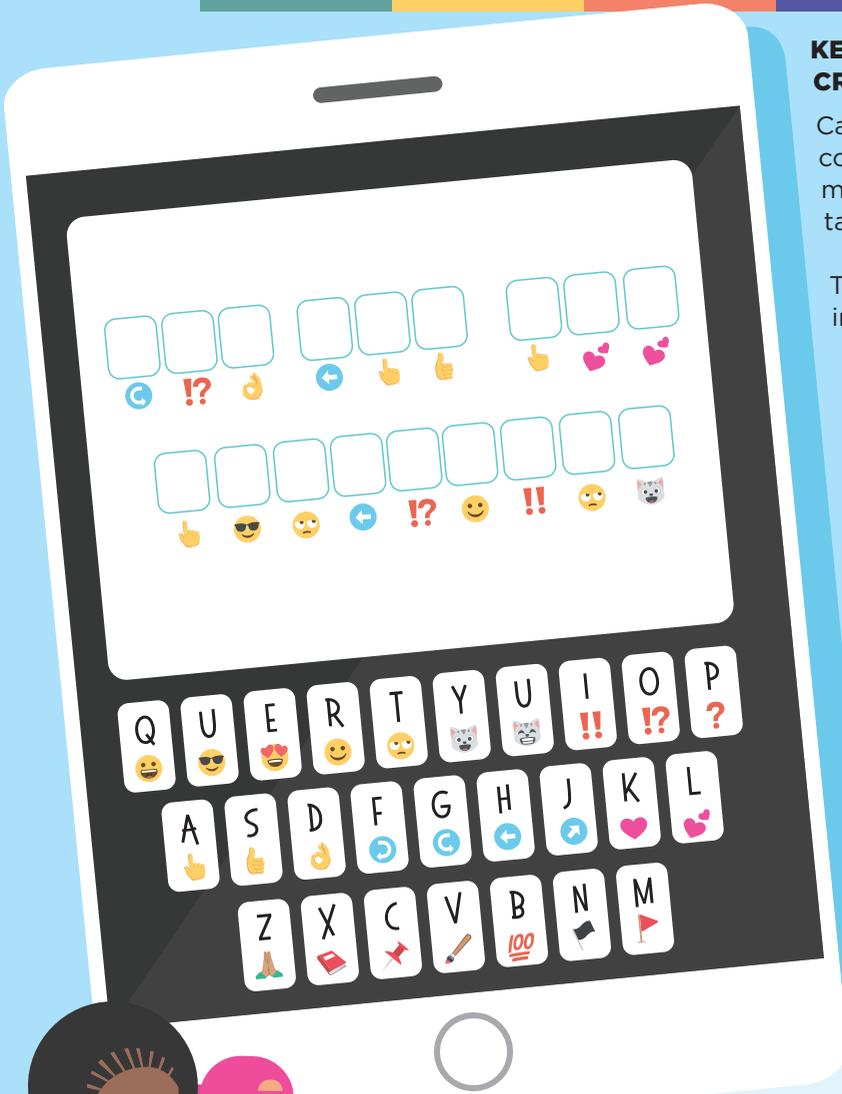
Think about your list as you answer this question: How am I made in God's image?



KEYBOARD CRAZINESS!

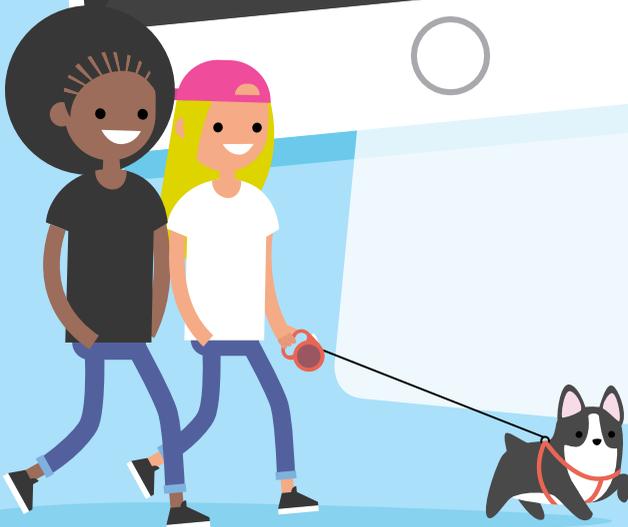
Can you crack the code to read the message on the tablet?

This means God is in total control!



YOUR TURN

Use the code (or create your own) to send a message about a way you are created in God's image.



MY DAILY JOURNAL

A journal is a place to keep track of your thoughts, feelings, questions, answers, and prayers. During the study, these pages will guide you to use your Bible, to think about what you read, and to give you suggestions for prayer.



READ GENESIS 1:1-27

As you read, write down everything God made that was mentioned.

Day 1: (vv. 1-5).....

Day 2: (vv. 6-8).....

Day 3: (vv. 9-13).....

Day 4: (vv. 14-19).....

Day 5: (vv. 20-23).....

Day 6: (vv. 24-27).....

What words come to mind about what God is like when you think about His creation?.....

Talk to God, naming several things you are thankful He made.

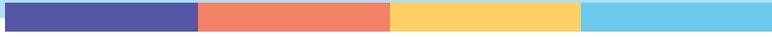


READ GENESIS 1:26-28

In whose image did God make people according to verse 27?

God is loving, creative, and kind. He made people with the ability to love, to create, and to be kind. Can you think of other ways God made people in His image?.....

God did not make people to be just like Him, but He did make them to have some qualities like Him. How do you feel about being made in God's image? Talk with God about your feelings. Ask Him questions you may have.



DAY 3

READ ACTS 17:24-27

Paul spoke these words to the Greeks in Athens. What did Paul know about God? List at least three things from these verses.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

How do you feel about the time and place in which God has placed you? Why might God have put you in the place you are right now? Where might God plan for you to live when you grow up?.....

.....

.....

.....



DAY 4

READ PSALM 139:1-6

How well does God know you? Who might know you better than God? (If you need a hint, unscramble these words: *on eno*).....

.....

How do you feel knowing God knows everything about you? Are there things you wish He didn't know? Are there things you are glad He knows?.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Even though God knows all about you, He likes to hear from you. Today talk to God about your day, what went well and what didn't. Tell Him anything you want. He is ready to hear you.



READ JEREMIAH 1:4-8

God has loved you for a very long time. He has always had a plan for you. You may not know all of God's plan for you right now, but you do know some things He wants you to do.

Find and read these verses. Write what they tell you to do.

Psalm 107:1:.....
.....
.....

Luke 6:31:.....
.....
.....

Ephesians 4:32:.....
.....
.....

Ask God's help for what you need to do based on these verses. Remember that He has all power to help you.
.....
.....

