

Preteen | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: Image of God • Genesis 1:26-30, Colossians 1:15

Bottom Line: I am made in the image of God.

Conversation Starter: What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

Monthly Memory Verse: How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. • Psalm 139:14 NIV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

- See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.
- In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Image of God • Genesis 1:26-30, Colossians 1:15

Conversation Starter

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

Bottom Line

I am made in the image of God.

Memory Verse

How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. • Psalm 139:14 NIV

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	"Build a Face" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Scissors	1
	Painter's tape	Several
	Trifold board	1
	Utility knife	1
	Optional: Laminated pouches	Several

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Build a Face" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- *Optional: Laminate each cutout, then trim.*
- Cut one arm-sized hole on each side flap of the trifold board, about six inches from the bottom of the board. (*See our Pinterest board for an example: bit.ly/4bysH0L*)
- Place a tape roll on the back of each cutout.

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set the trifold board up on a table.
- Place the cutouts in front of the board with the tape roll side up.
- Call on one kid at a time to be the "Creator." Have them stand or sit *behind* the trifold board and stick their arms through the holes. They shouldn't be able to see the front of the board at all.
- Encourage them to find and identify what they think each cutout is and build their face. The rest of the group can shout directions (e.g., "Move your hand up! No, left!"), or you can have them do it with no help for extra laughs.
- Reset and continue with each kid.

What You Say:

"These faces turned out looking pretty hilarious! It's really hard to create something when you can't see what you're doing. But when God created you, He wasn't guessing—God doesn't make mistakes! He purposefully designed the shape of your nose, your smile, and everything about you. But even more importantly, He designed what's *inside* of you. God didn't just make us; He made us in His image. That means you have the ability to show the world who God is. Let's go hear more about that amazing truth!"

Groups

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

25 minutes

Groups 1/5

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Butcher paper	1
	Coloring supplies	Several
	Optional: Individual pieces of paper in place of butcher paper	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Grips or adaptive coloring supplies	Several



EveryChild tips

- Provide grips or adaptive coloring supplies.
- Groups 3/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Roll out a large piece of butcher paper on the floor or table.

During the Activity:

- Before you review the Bible Story, invite the kids to gather around the butcher paper.
- Explain that as you read/tell the story of creation (Genesis 1:1-27), their job is to doodle what they hear. They can draw the light and dark, the animals, the plants, or abstract designs that represent the story.
- Read the story slowly, pausing occasionally to let them draw.
- After the story is over, give them a minute to finish their drawings.
- Go around the circle, and have a few kids share what they doodled and why.

What You Say:

"Look at this giant masterpiece we just made.

"Out of everything God created—the oceans, the mountains, the animals—He saved the very best for last! He made humans. He made you. Your identity doesn't come from the world, your grades, or what other people say about you. Your true identity comes *only* from God. And you are His masterpiece!

"We read in Genesis 1:26-27 NlrV: *Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground.'* So God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. He created them as male and female.

"The God of the entire universe created us to be like Himself. That's mind-blowing! It's such a high honor, we simply can't wrap our minds around it. God didn't have to make us, but He did. He loved us before we even existed, and then, to top it off, He made us in His image! See, we were made to be like a mirror, reflecting what God is like. We literally carry God's image to the world around us. In this way, we can shine God's light and show His kingdom. Being made in the image of God is who you are. Nothing you do will ever change that. Whenever you feel unsure of who you are, remember this truth: **[Bottom Line]** *I am made in the image of God.*"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Play

What You Need

	"Find Someone Who" Activity Page	1
	Paper	1
	Clipboards	1
	Writing supplies	Several
	EveryChild Supplies: Dot markers or washable ink pads and hand wipes	Several



EveryChild tips

- If signing their name is challenging, stamp with a dot marker or fingerprint.
- Groups 2/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Find Someone Who" on paper, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a "Find Someone Who" Activity Page, clipboard, and writing supply.
- Explain the rules: Kids will mingle around the room and find a different person to sign their name in each box. (If you have a smaller group, they can use a person's name more than once—but try to mix it up!)
- The first person to fill in all the empty spots wins!

What You Say:

"It's awesome to see how many different skills and traits we have in this room. Some of you are incredibly athletic, some are great artists, and some love robotics. We all have different hair, different eyes, and different talents. And God made you that way! God made you on purpose, and God doesn't make mistakes!"

"But the most important thing about you is something we *all* share. Every single one of us was created by God, and every single one of us was made in His image. You are God's masterpiece!"

"Being made in God's image is two things: It's a status we all have, and it's something we are all to do as Jesus followers.

"So, first things first, know that your identity is something you can't lose. You were made in God's image, and that won't ever change!"

"And then, do the second part of being made in God's image: spend your whole life following Jesus so you can become like Him and show the world who He is. As you do this, we will show God's image more and more clearly. We're not called simply to know what Jesus is like, but to live like Him! Jesus is compassionate. He is wise and humble and forgiving. He is both truthful and loving. Like Jesus, we are called to be compassionate and wise. Humble and forgiving. Truthful and loving. We will never do it perfectly in this life—but because we are made in God's image, we can grow in each one of these things. As we spend time with Jesus and follow Him, it will become more and more natural to do the things that Jesus did. And over time, the image of God will become brighter and stronger in each one of us."

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Paper	1
	Writing supplies	Several
	Phone or tablet with a music app	Several
	Portable speaker	1
	Playlist of popular praise and worship songs (use "Amazing Music" or your church's current worship setlist)	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Psalm 139:14 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Divide the kids into two teams, or have them play as individuals.
- Create a tally sheet with teams or individuals.
- Explain that you're going to play just a few seconds of a praise and worship song.
- The first person to raise their hand (or stand up) and correctly name the song gets a point for their team.
- Play several rounds. See how fast they can guess the songs!

What You Say:

"You guys really know your worship music! Why do you think we sing songs like that? (*Allow responses: to thank God, to praise Him, etc.*) In Psalm 139:14, the writer praises God because we are 'fearfully and wonderfully made.' When we understand that the God of the universe created us perfectly, the only natural response is to praise Him!

"We don't just worship God with our songs, though. Because we are made in His image, we can worship Him with how we live our lives. We are called to be compassionate and wise. Humble and forgiving. Truthful and loving. We will never do it perfectly in this life—but because we are made in God's image, we can grow in each one of these things. As we spend time with Jesus and follow Him, it will become more and more natural to do the things that Jesus did. And over time, the image of God

will become brighter and stronger in each one of us. Remember this truth: ***[Bottom Line]*** I am made in the image of God."

Groups 5/5

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
- If being made in God's image is your true identity, why do you think it's so easy to believe what others say about you instead?
- What do you think it actually looks like to "reflect God" in everyday life—at school, with friends, or at home?
- Jesus shows us exactly what God is like. Which quality of Jesus (like compassion, humility, forgiveness, truth, or love) is hardest for you—and why do you think that is?
- If every person is made in God's image, how should that affect the way we treat people we don't like or don't understand?
- **[Conversation Starter] What does it mean to be made in the image of God?**

Groups 4/5

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- "Build a Face" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- Cardstock, TBD pieces per Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group
- Trifold board, one per Small Group
- Utility knife, one per Small Group
- *Optional: Laminate pouches, TBD pieces per Small Group*

What You Do:

- Print "Build a Face" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- *Optional: Laminate each cutout, then trim.*
- Cut one arm-sized hole on each side flap of the trifold board, about six inches from the bottom of the board. (*See our Pinterest board for an example: bit.ly/4bysHOL*)
- Place a tape roll on the back of each cutout.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Play

What You Need:

- "Find Someone Who" Activity Page, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Clipboards, one per kid
- Writing supplies, one per kid

EveryChild Supplies:

- *Dot markers or washable ink pads and hand wipes, one per kid*

What You Do:

- Print "Find Someone Who" on paper, one per kid.

2. Bible Story Extension

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per Small Group
- Butcher paper, one per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per kid
- *Optional: Individual pieces of paper in place of butcher paper, one per kid*

EveryChild Supplies:

- Grips or adaptive coloring supplies, one per kid

What You Do:

- Roll out a large piece of butcher paper on the floor or table.

3. Discussion Questions

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Made to Create**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per Small Group
- Writing supplies, one per Small Group
- Phone or tablet with a music app, one per Small Group
- Portable speaker, one per Small Group
- Playlist of popular praise and worship songs (use "Amazing Music" or your church's current worship setlist), one per Small Group

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

Made to Reflect**What You Need:**

- Medium-sized hand mirror

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies:

- EveryChild Supplies: Dot markers or washable ink pads and hand wipes
- EveryChild Supplies: Grips or adaptive coloring supplies

Supplies

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. "Build a Face" Activity Page	1
3. Cardstock	1
4. Scissors	1
5. Painter's tape	Several
6. Trifold board	1
7. Utility knife	1
8. Optional: Laminate pouches	Several

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Butcher paper	1
3. Coloring supplies	Several
4. Optional: Individual pieces of paper in place of butcher paper	1
5. EveryChild Supplies: Grips or adaptive coloring supplies	Several

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. "Find Someone Who" Activity Page	1
2. Paper	1
3. Clipboards	1
4. Writing supplies	Several
5. EveryChild Supplies: Dot markers or washable ink pads and hand wipes	Several

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Paper	1
3. Writing supplies	Several
4. Phone or tablet with a music app	Several
5. Portable speaker	1
6. Playlist of popular praise and worship songs (use "Amazing Music" or your church's current worship setlist)	1

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Medium-sized hand mirror	1