

# We Are Made In God's Image

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Living a life close to God

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:26

**Memory Verse:** Genesis 1:26 - God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.'

## The Children's Sermon

Hello, boys and girls! Today, we're going to talk about something really special. It's about how we can show God's love to everyone around us by living in God's image. Now, you might wonder, "What does it mean to live in God's image?" Well, let's dive in and find out together!

First, let's remember that God made us to be a bit like Him. That doesn't mean we have superpowers or that we can be everywhere at once like God. But it does mean we can show love, kindness, and goodness just like He does. When we live in God's image, we let His light shine through us so others can see it too.

But here's the thing, if we only know about God from far away, like knowing about a famous person from books or the internet, people won't be able to see God in us. It's like knowing about a beautiful painting but never seeing it in person. You can't really share how beautiful it is with others if you haven't seen it yourself.

To really show God's image, we need to get close to Him. How do we do that? By reading the Bible, praying, and doing what God asks us to do. It's like getting to know a friend better by spending time with them and listening to their stories.

Now, imagine you have a mirror. When you look into it, you see your reflection, right? Living in God's image is kind of like being a mirror for God. We want to reflect God's love and kindness to others. When we are kind, help others, and show love, it's like holding up a mirror that reflects God's goodness to the world.

But, living in God's image isn't always easy. Sometimes, we might feel like being selfish or getting angry. That's okay; we all feel that way sometimes. The important thing is to remember that God is always with us, helping us to choose kindness and love, even when it's hard.

Let's think about some ways we can live in God's image every day. Maybe we can share our toys with our friends or siblings, help our parents without being asked, or say kind words to someone who is feeling sad. These small acts of kindness show God's love to others.

And guess what? When we live in God's image, we make the world a brighter, happier place. It's like being a light in the darkness. People can see God's love through us, and it might even help them want to get to know God better too.

Remember, living in God's image isn't just for Sundays at church; it's for every day. Whether we're at school, at home, or playing with friends, we can always choose to reflect God's love and kindness.

So, boys and girls, let's make a special promise today. Let's promise to try our best to live in God's image. Let's be kind, loving, and good to everyone we meet. And when we mess up, because we all do sometimes, let's remember that God loves us and forgives us. We can always start again and keep trying to live in God's image.

Thank you for listening so nicely today! Let's close with a short prayer. Dear God, help us to live in Your image every day. Help us to show Your love and kindness to everyone we meet. Thank You for loving us and for being with us always. Amen.

## Bible Memory Verse

**Genesis 1:26 - God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.'**

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut out paper shapes beforehand: circles for heads, rectangles for bodies, squares, triangles, and any other shapes you'd like to use for parts of the body or clothing.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out so each child can reach them.

Do This:

1. Tell the children they are going to create paper people that represent themselves, reminding them that God made each of us special and in His image.
2. Encourage them to use the shapes to make their paper person, using the circles for heads and other shapes for the body and clothes. They can draw faces and details with markers or crayons.
3. Once everyone has finished their paper person, have them share their creation with the group, explaining one thing they love about how God made them. This helps reinforce the memory verse and the theme of living a life close to God by appreciating how uniquely He has created each of us.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board or a whiteboard
- Markers or colored chalk
- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper
- Tape or magnets (if using a whiteboard)
- Bible

Get Ready:

- Write "Genesis 1:26" at the top of the poster board or whiteboard.
- Underneath, draw a large circle to represent the world and inside it, draw a simple outline of a person.
- Prepare a short, simple explanation of Genesis 1:26, focusing on how God made us in His image to live closely with Him.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Genesis 1:26**: Start by reading Genesis 1:26 aloud to the children. Explain that this verse tells us that God made us to be like Him and to take care of the world. Emphasize that being made in God's image means we can live a life close to Him, loving and caring for others and the world around us.
2. **Interactive Creation**: Hand out sticky notes or small pieces of paper to each child. Ask them to think of ways they can live a life close to God, such as being kind, helping others, praying, or taking care of the earth. Have them write or draw these actions on their notes.
3. **Building Our World Together**: Invite the children to come up one by one and stick their notes around the person inside the world on your poster board or whiteboard. As they place their notes, encourage them to share what they wrote or drew and why it's important for living a life close to God.
4. **Reflection and Prayer**: Once all the notes are up, reflect together on how our actions can fill the world with God's love. Lead the children in a short prayer, asking God to help them live according to Genesis 1:26, showing love and care to all creation.

## Snack Activity: Creation Mix

You'll Need:

- A large bowl
- Dry cereal (representing the land)
- Pretzel sticks (representing the trees)
- Fish crackers (representing the sea animals)
- Animal crackers (representing the land animals and humans)
- A spoon or scoop

- Small cups or bags for serving

Get Ready: Gather all your materials on a large table where all the kids can reach.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Genesis 1:26 together, explaining that God made humans special, in His own image, and gave them the responsibility to take care of His creation.
2. Have each child take turns adding each ingredient to the large bowl, as you talk about the different parts of creation God made. For example, when adding the dry cereal, discuss how God made the land and everything on it. When adding the fish crackers, talk about the sea and the creatures in it.
3. Once all the ingredients are mixed, use the spoon or scoop to serve the creation mix into small cups or bags. As they eat, remind the children that living a life close to God means taking care of the world He created for us, loving others, and following His commands.

## Game Activity: Creation Tag

You'll Need:

- A large open space (preferably outdoors)
- Boundary markers (cones, ropes, or chalk)
- Character cards (images or names of things God created, including humans, animals, plants, sun, moon, stars, etc.)

Get Ready: Create a large playing area with clear boundaries using the markers.

Prepare character cards, ensuring there are enough for each child to choose from. On a separate large card, write Genesis 1:26 to display during the game.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that God created humans in His image, to live closely with Him and take care of His creation, as described in Genesis 1:26. Each child will select a character card, representing parts of God's creation.
2. Designate one child as 'It' who will be 'Human', trying to tag the other players, who represent different parts of creation. When someone is tagged, they freeze and hold their card high. They can only be unfrozen by another player who can correctly say one way we can take care of God's creation or live a life close to God (e.g., 'We can plant trees', 'We can be kind to animals', 'We can help each other').
3. Play continues until all players have been frozen at least once. Gather the children and discuss how being made in God's image means we have a responsibility to care for everything He has made and to live lives that reflect His love and goodness. Conclude by reading Genesis 1:26 together, emphasizing our role in God's creation.

## Craft Activity: God's Creation Collage

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Old magazines or printed pictures of animals, plants, and people
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Gather all materials on a large table. Make sure each child has access to scissors and a glue stick. Cut out pictures from magazines beforehand to save time and ensure there are plenty of images of animals, plants, and people.

Do this:

1. Read Genesis 1:26 together and discuss what it means to be made in God's image and to live a life close to God. Emphasize the importance of caring for God's creation as a way to honor Him.
2. Give each child a piece of construction paper. Ask them to create a collage that represents the beauty of God's creation, including animals, plants, and people. Encourage them to think about how each part of creation can show us something about God.
3. Once the collages are complete, allow each child to share their creation with the group. Ask them to explain how their collage helps them think about living a life close to God. Finish with a short prayer, thanking God for His wonderful creation and asking for help to live in a way that honors Him.

## Prayer Activity: God's Image Creators

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers of animals, stars, and people

Get Ready: Before the activity, write 'Genesis 1:26 - Living a Life Close to God' at the top of the poster board. Draw a simple outline of the world or a heart in the center to represent God's creation.

Do this:

1. Read Genesis 1:26 together and discuss what it means to be made in God's image and how we can live a life close to God. Explain that being close to God means loving Him, obeying His commands, and loving others.



2. Ask the children to think of ways they can show love to God and others. For each idea, they can draw a symbol or write a word inside the world or heart outline. Encourage creativity! They might draw a smiley face to represent kindness, a heart for love, or hands for helping.
3. Decorate the rest of the poster with the animal, star, and people stickers. Explain that just as we are unique and special to God, so is every part of His creation. Finish by praying together, asking God to help everyone live a life that reflects His love and image.