



MARCH THEME

MADE

Discover Who You're
Meant to Be

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 1:26-28

Art in Me | Image of God

BOTTOM LINE

God made me in God's image

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

LIFE APP

Individuality | Discovering who you are meant to be

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **INDIVIDUALITY** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

Key Question: **What do you think it means to be made in God's image?** If they've been around church for a while, families may have heard about this idea. They may still wonder what it actually means. We hope families start to understand how believing that God made them in God's image can change the way they see the world.

We start the month by looking closely at **Genesis 1:26-28**. When God created people, God did something special. God created them in God's image and gave them the job of taking care of creation.

Bottom Line: **God made me in God's image.** We hope to help families understand that being made in the image of God means we can love, show kindness, be creative, solve problems, and care for others all because we reflect and respond to God's character.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Ask God to help kids understand what it means to be created in God's image. Ask God to help them begin to see themselves the way that God sees them—uniquely amazing and wonderful. Ask God to help your group grow confidently into who they've been created to be.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Crayons

What You Do:

- Each week this month, you will introduce an ice breaker game to allow the kids to express their individuality as they get to know each other better.
- Let each kid select a crayon. Have them answer one of the questions below based on the color they've selected.
 - Green: What's your favorite sport?
 - Yellow: What's your favorite thing to do for fun?
 - Red: What's your favorite holiday?
 - Blue: What's your favorite thing to eat?

•• **CLOSE UP**

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



What You Need: “Close-Up Pictures” activity pages

What You Do:

- Show the close-up picture of an image and ask kids what they think it is. After taking guesses, reveal the zoomed-out version of the image.
- Repeat with the rest of the images.

What You Say: “Wow! Those were some really cool pictures, weren’t they? It was super hard to guess what those things were in the close-up image. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WoW family worship, we’ll learn/we learned about another kind of image.”**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● **COIN RUBBINGS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Bible, coins, copy paper, and crayons

What You Do:

- Pass out paper and crayons. Set out the coins where everybody can reach them.
- Encourage kids to choose a coin and place the paper on top of the coin.
- Show the kids how to use the side of the tip of the crayon to rub over the coin to transfer the image of the coin onto the paper.
- Make sure everyone has a turn to create several coin rubbings. They can trade coins and crayons so they end up with a colorful page of coin rubbings.
- Select volunteers to read Genesis 1:26-28.

What You Say: “What happened when you rubbed the crayon over the piece of paper? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes! The image of the coin was transferred to the paper. Today we learned that each of us is made in the image of God. That means that of all the things that God created—from oceans full of fish to star-filled skies—YOU are most like God. You can love and think and imagine and create. You are made in God’s image and you reflect God to people around you. So remember: **[Bottom Line] God made me in God’s image.”**

[Make It Personal] *(Tell your group about a time when you were a kid and you didn’t love something about yourself or the way God made you. Maybe you couldn’t run as fast as other kids or you were really good at math but others thought that wasn’t cool. Share how knowing that you are made in God’s image helped you to understand that nothing about you is a mistake and your individuality is a gift from your heavenly Father.)*

●● **FRAMED** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Picture Frame” activity page, markers, scissors



What You Do:

- Pass out a “Picture Frame” activity page to each kid in your group.
- Encourage them to decorate the frame any way they choose with the markers and cut out the center of the page to create a frame.
- Have the kids write their names on the backs of their frames and set them aside for the prayer activity at the end.

What You Say: “I love how unique and individual each of these frames is—just like each one of you! But we all have one BIG thing in common: **[Bottom Line] God made me in God’s image.** The way God made you is completely wonderful. I want you to take these frames home and tape them up to your mirror so that it frames your face as you look at your reflection. Each time you brush your teeth or comb your hair, I want you to remember that God loves you so much—enough to create you to be like God so that God could have a relationship with you. Never forget: **[Bottom Line] God made me in God’s image.”**

•• **MIRROR ME** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Look up this month’s memory verse (*Psalm 139:14*) using the navigation tips below...

Finding verses with 2nd + 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalm in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Psalm starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. You can also share that Psalms can usually be found by flipping to the center of your Bible. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 139. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 139.

- Once you’ve found the verse and reviewed it as a group, split into two teams.
- Assign a phrase of the verse, broken down below, to each team.
—**Phrase One** | How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that.
—**Phrase Two** | What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. Psalm 139:14, NIV
- Group One will begin by repeating Phrase One as Group Two follows with Phrase Two. But before they start reciting, Group One must huddle up and quietly select an emotion they will show on their faces as they say the phrase. Examples: sadness, fear, surprise, anger, happiness.
- Once Group One is finished, Group Two will mirror the emotion from Group One as they say the second half of the verse. When they finish their phrase, allow Group Two to name the emotion that Group One selected.
- For the next round, switch! Let Group Two select an emotion and say Phrase One of the verse while showing that emotion as Group One finishes with Phrase Two, mimicking and then naming the emotion they see.
- Go back and forth changing emotions and verse phrases between the teams at least two more rounds.

What You Say: “You did a great job mirroring the emotions of the other team as we repeated this month’s memory verse. I love the fact that no matter how you’re feeling—whether you’re sad, or frustrated or worried or scared—those emotions don’t change who you are! The way God made you is wonderful and amazing! You can know that 100 percent because **[Bottom Line] God made me in God’s image.”**

