

# Made in the Image of God

*All people are wonderfully created in the likeness of God the father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit.*

As Christian families we are called by Jesus to love one another and it is crucial to talk with our children to love and respect diversity, just like God does. We are not born with prejudices they are learned, but so is respect and empathy. The most powerful thing we can do as parents is to make sure that our children are raised with a proper and true, love and appreciation of all God's children. This means that we are to teach our children that each person they encounter is a child of God and a person of worth, made in the image of God. And we need to look for God and His qualities that He placed within them. In order to do this, we need to know God and others well.

**Please read as a family: Genesis 1:26-28, 31**

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, **“Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.** They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> **So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them;** male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> Then God **blessed them** and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.

<sup>31</sup> **Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!**

## Talk about Diversity

God loves variety. He made different kinds of plants, trees, and flowers. He made different kinds of animals like tigers, dogs, and fish. He made different kinds of people. We are different in some ways, but we are all created in His image and God loves us all!

**Select a books below that fits for your family and read about the beautiful diversity of God's people.**

Preschool: [The Skin You Live In](#) by Michael Tyler

[The Skin You Live In on YouTube](#)

Kindergarten: [All the Colors of the Earth](#) by Sheila Hamanaka

[All the Colors of the Earth on YouTube](#)

Elementary: [Let's Talk about Race](#) by Julius Lester

[Let's Talk about Race on YouTube](#)

## Parents Discuss with your child(ren)

In the beginning, when God created people and the earth, everything was perfect and there was peace. But that all changed when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and sin. When they ate the fruit that God told them not to, it hurt the relationship between God and people and it also hurt the way we treat each other.

## Read Genesis 3:15

<sup>15</sup> And I will cause hostility (*bad feelings*) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring.

Now because of sin, sometimes people do not treat each other very well and sometimes people fight.

- Ask your children if they have ever had someone treat them badly?
- Ask your children if they have ever been mean to another person?

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Encourage honesty here, offer grace, not shame. It is important that children begin to develop a sense of sin early on. It one of the first steps in realizing our need of a savior.

## Please Read as a Family: Romans 3:23

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

## Parents Discuss with your child(ren)

Sometimes even people sin and treat each other badly because of the color of their skin or the way they look. But the good news is that Jesus came to take away sin. God shows us a better way. The Bible teaches us to love like God loves.

**Psalm 145:9** says that the Lord **is good to all**; he has compassion on **all he has made**.

Tell your kids that if we want to love like God we really need to get to know people. We need to love and understand other people and then try not to do or say things to make them feel they are not loved. In order to do that we need to use empathy. [Please watch this short video about empathy.](#)

## Practice Empathy

- Ask your child if they have ever been treated badly because of the way that they look? And if so ask them how it made them feel?
- If they have never been treated badly because of the way that they look, ask them how they think it would make them feel?

## Parents Discuss with your child(ren)

Now that we understand how that would make us feel, we want to make sure that we do not hurt someone else like that. We want to do what Jesus said in John 13: 34, <sup>34</sup>So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup>Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

## Re-read Genesis 1:26-27

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “**Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.** They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup>**So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them;** male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>Then God **blessed them** and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.

## Re-read Genesis 1:31

<sup>31</sup>**Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!**

## End in Prayer

Father God, we know you created everyone and everything and that everyone and everything you created is very good. Help us to look at every person we meet as a person who was made in your image, who has your qualities. As we meet new people helps us to look for the beautiful blessings you have placed within them. As we get to know them help us to look for you in them and celebrate the different gifts that you have blessed your people with. Help us to love others as you love us.

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## Additional Family Activities to Practice Empathy

1. Search magazines together for pictures of different feeling faces and make a collage. Then hypothesize why someone may feel a certain way.
2. **Make photo books** with your child, and label the photos with emotions so your child can flip through and identify how their friends and family members are feeling in each situation.
3. **Play board games** that are designed to help children learn about empathy in ways that are fun for the whole family.
4. **Encourage your child to see things from another person's perspective.** "You're really good at soccer. How do you think the new player feels, sitting out, watching the team play? What can you do?" "How do you think your sister felt when she didn't get the singing part in the play?" "How do you think this person feels by looking at her face?"
5. **Help your child recognize that people have different interests and preferences.** See if your child can list the favorite ice cream flavors of family members or friends. Ask what different people do for fun: Who plays baseball? Who builds with Legos? Who plays cards? Who plays video games? This sounds simple, but even older children can benefit from a habit of reminding themselves of their friends' likes and dislikes before they get together. Have a discussion prior to a sleepover or play date: "Let's discuss what you and Michael may like to do when he comes over this weekend." Taking time to discuss an event in advance shows your child that you care, and you are considering another person's feelings and needs in the plan.
6. While reading stories to children, **stop and ask children to identify the characters' feelings** in the story. Discuss how the characters' behaviors reveal their feelings.
7. **Do simple role-playing** such as show me how your body and face would look if someone yelled at you, or knocked down your Lego building. Or what if you found a puppy on the playground, or received a surprise visit from Grandma and Grandpa.
8. Help children recognize that **people may have different feelings** about the same thing: "Cole likes to climb high on the jungle gym, but Wyatt doesn't."
9. Help children recognize that **their feelings about a situation may change.** "Jesse, you are feeling sad now and want to sit by yourself, but later you may feel differently."

## Helping children appreciate and love the differences between God's people:

- Attend cultural events
- Read story books about different parts of the world.
  - Discuss how the new culture is different from your culture.
    - Differences are real and not bad, but rather things to be acknowledged and valued.
  - Talk about how the people from the new culture are the same as you and your family.
    - They love music, food, and their families.
  - Ask children to share what they love about the new culture.
  - Ask you children what they can learn about God by learning about this new culture.

## Additional Family Resources

<https://www.kidsofintegrity.com/lessons/acceptance>  
<https://www.kidsofintegrity.com/lessons/consideration>  
<https://www.kidsofintegrity.com/lessons/compassion>  
<https://www.kidsofintegrity.com/lessons/respect>