

Series: Born to Be Me

Lesson 2: Image is Everything

Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Generate a list of images that people create and maintain
- Interact with Scripture verses that remind them that they are made in God's image
- Create a reminder that they were created in God's image

Materials Needed:

- ☐ A variety of pictures of famous people who have a specific image or cards with the names of these people (see Lead In)
- ☐ Masking Tape or safety pins
- ☐ Board and markers
- ☐ Cheat sheets (page A-35)
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Some clay or play dough
- ☐ Cards for each student with Genesis 1:27a written on it
- ☐ Stamp pad or small dish of finger paint
- ☐ Laminator (optional)

Lead In:

Prepare a variety of pictures of name cards to represent famous people who have a specific image. Good examples would be Paris Hilton, 50 Cent, Eminem, Stephen Harper, the Pope, Jennifer Lopez, Bill Clinton, Pewee Herman, Kirstie Alley, O. J. Simpson, Ben Johnson, Milli Vanilli, Michael Jackson, etc. Begin by pinning or taping one picture or card to the back of each student's shirt. The goal of this game is for every student to figure out the person on their back by asking yes or no questions such as, Am I a woman?, Am I famous?, and so on. Once the student has correctly guessed they can remove the picture or name and help others until everyone has correctly guessed.

Gather the whole class and ask, "What did these people have in common?" Look for an answer such as "they are all famous or well-known" or "they are easy to identify" or "we recognized their image." The word "image" is key to this lesson, so if the students don't generate it relate it to what they do generate.

Single out some of the famous people who lost or changed their images (ex. Bill Clinton, Pewee Herman, Kirstie Alley, O. J. Simpson, Ben Johnson, Milli Vanilli, Michael Jackson) and ask the students what these celebrities especially had in common. The correct answer is that their public image changed significantly. How did that affect their careers and popularity?

Task One:

Have the students turn back to their groups and generate a list of the ten most common images that teenagers are trying to project. For example, teenagers want to project that they are rich, beautiful, musical, confident, rebellious, fashionable, and so on. When they are done, have them turn to the board and write up or call out their answers. If the answer is there already, add a check mark. For example, if three groups said "popular" that answer gets three check marks. Have the students narrow down the list to the ten

most common answers. They have now made the issue of image more personal, something that they can relate to.

Task Two:

Transition by saying something like, *People take their images very seriously and invest a lot in maintaining them. Scripture tells us that God has an image too and that God wants us to project God's image instead of our own made up one. Let's work together to identify some of the characteristics that are part of God's image.*

The students are going to repeat the above task in their groups, replacing the image of teenagers with the image of God. In other words, they can work together to make a list of ten characteristics that God is concerned about projecting as God's image.

Give the students a cheat sheet (page A-35) with the following verse references on it. Add any other that are important to you:

Exodus 34:6 (Compassionate, slow to anger, loving, faithful)

Psalms 103: 17, Ephesians 2:4-5, 1 John 4:8,10 (Loving, merciful)

Romans 2:11 (Fair)

Ephesians 5:25 (Kind, self-giving)

John 7:28 (True)

Isaiah 9:6 (Peace, Mighty)

Psalms 103:12 (Forgiving)

Repeat the feedback from the previous task until the students have a good list of ten qualities of God's image.

Task Three:

Ask one student to read Genesis 1:27 and 31. Before he or she reads, ask the other students to identify what these verses say about image. The correct answer is that they tell us that human beings are created in God's image.

You can say something like: *Sometimes we feel we have to live up to certain images of who we are, but the most important image we have to maintain is the image of God in us. This does not mean that we always have all the traits that God has (like being all-powerful or able to heal disease) but it does mean that we carry some of the qualities of God with us and that others can see those qualities in us.*

Closing:

Say: *The last time that we met we talked about how we are God's creation. We each made something to remind us how a creator feels about what he or she creates. Take out some clay or play dough and explain, If I was to create something out of this clay, the whole creation would be marked by my fingerprint (illustrate by putting your fingerprint on the clay in several places). Even if what I created broke or was painted over, it would not matter; my finger print would still be on my creation. In the same way, God's fingerprint is on you. You have been made in God's image and his fingerprint is on each of you and everyone around you.*

Give each student a card with the Genesis 1: 27a written on it ("in his image he created me"). Have some finger paint or a stamp pad available. Invite students to put their finger or thumb on the pad or in the paint, and to then put their fingerprint on the card with the verse. Explain to them that this card reminds them that they carry the fingerprint of God and that they can keep it in their wallet, purse, or put it up in their locker. Laminate them if you have a laminator.

Close in prayer, asking God to remind the students that they are made in God's image.