



Date: _____
Series: Discover the Design
Summer Year 1, Lesson 5

Man: The Image of God

Take Home Point: *God made us in his image—we have a spirit that can live forever.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Genesis 1:26-27, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:22-23

Key Verse: Genesis 1:26: "Then God said, 'Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness.'"

We will help kids know:

- God made humans in his image, like himself in certain ways.
- We are like God in that humans were originally made perfect and holy—though man ruined his image with sin.
- We are like God in that humans have spirits that can live forever.




We will help kids feel:

- Valued by God because they were created in his image.
- Special in that God wants a relationship with us forever.

We will help kids do:

- Draw pictures as a reflection or image of other people.
- Identify ways in which we demonstrate qualities of being made in the image of God.
- Pray thanksgiving that Jesus was given so we might be made a new creation in his image.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Children learn what it means to be made in God's <i>image</i> . They will draw a name and make a picture of the child whose name they have.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • half sheets of paper for each child • pencils • various colored half sheet of paper for each child
Large Group 	4 6 10 12	Overview Drama and Puppet Presentation: "Dr. Fritz Searches for God's Image" Object Lesson: "Draw Me a Picture: The Image of God" Drama and Puppet Presentation: "Dr. Fritz Searches for God's Image" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costume for Dr. Imonza Fritz that might include a lab coat, crazy glasses, an oversized pen, clipboard, and wildly spruced hair. • Albie, a crazy looking bird puppet • box labeled "Image Maker" with a flash camera (or other flash effect) inside • a picture of the face of a child in large group with an X-ray type body • white poster board or easel paper • bold black marker • four different bright crayons (The bigger the crayon the better!) • 2 large black crayons • paper clip • handheld mirror
Small Group Application 	4-5	Kids make an "Image of God" poster.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poster board • markers • glue sticks

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As the children arrive, give each a small piece of paper and ask him to write his name on it. Mix the papers together and have the children draw names. The children should keep the name they drew a secret.

Give a half sheet of different colored paper and a pencil to each child. Have the kids draw a sketch of the person whose name they drew. As they are drawing, encourage the children to keep who they are drawing a secret. Also have them notice characteristics about the person they are drawing.

Ask some of the following questions as the children work.

Do you know what the word “image” means? It means making something that appears or is like another thing. These drawings are images of the people you are drawing.

Do people ever tell you that you look like your mom or your dad? What features do they point to? This is like being made in your parents’ image.

After the children have time to discuss these questions and complete their sketches, see if the group can identify who the images are. Do not throw the images away as they will be used for the small group application.

What do you think it means to be made in God’s image? *(To look something like God, to have some of his characteristics.)*

Being made in God’s image means we are made like him in certain ways. One of the very special ways we are like him is that God made us with a spirit. God is a spiritual being and he gave us a spirit.

Today we will learn that **God made us in his image—we have a spirit that can live forever.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Drama and Puppet Presentation: “Dr. Fritz Searches for God’s Image”

Imonza Fritz uses an “Image Catcher” to try to see the image of God inside a child volunteer. He learns how he can have the image of God and be made spiritually alive.

Object Lesson: “Draw Me a Picture: The Image of God”

This is a drawing demonstration of how a person made in the image of God can become dark in sin but because of Jesus, can be made a new creation.

Drama and Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Dr. Fritz Searches for God’s Image”

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

With markers write “Made In the Image of God” in the center of a poster board. Then have the children glue their sketches from Warm-Up around this phrase. Say:

Genesis 1:26 says, “Then God said, ‘Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness.’”

As the children are working, ask them if they can recall what they learned in large group, what it means to be made in God’s image.

The main points to be emphasized are: 1) people were made perfect in the beginning, and 2) they were given a spirit that could live with God forever. However, since people sin, both of these qualities of being in God’s image have been changed. Now our spirits can live apart from God if we so choose. Also, we no longer are perfect.

After the poster is completed, read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:17. (*Older children can look this passage up also. One might volunteer to read it.*) Then say:

This verse describes how when we believe in Jesus, we are made a *new creation*. Our spirits are made alive and we will be able to spend forever with God, even after we die. It also means that through faith in Jesus, God sees us as completely forgiven or perfect in his sight.

Though our image of God is discolored with sin, when we believe in Jesus, we are *remade* in his image. How do you now look like God?

As the children think of answers, turn to Galatians 5:22-23 and read. Then say:

This shows us what our new life in Jesus looks like. We have his characteristics of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We can be thankful that **God made us in his image—we have a spirit that can live forever.*

Prayer Time:

Close with a prayer thanking God that each of us was made special in his image. Even when that image was fouled up with our sin, he made a way for us to have the image and likeness of Jesus. If any child does not know Jesus as his Savior, help that child make a simple prayer of faith as follows.

Dear God, thank you for making me in your image. Because of my sin, I have messed up that image. Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross and pay the price of my sins. Jesus, come into my life and be my Savior and my friend. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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Large Group Presentation

“Dr. Fritz Searches for God’s Image”

Drama and Puppet Presentation

This is the fourth in a series of five featuring a costumed character, Dr. Imonza Fritz. The character is truly on the fritz as he is challenged to learn the truth of God’s creation.

The actor playing the part of Dr. Fritz can have lots of fun creating the character. The costume might involve a lab coat, crazy glasses, an oversized pen and clipboard, and wildly spruced hair. He would also do well to speak with an accent. The script is written with some accent changes such as turning the word “the” into the word “ze” and “where” into “vere.”

Accompanying the crazy scientist is his puppet, Albie, who is a crazy looking bird that over-exaggerates the ridiculous.

The large group presenter, Mr. King, is present to provide the correct answers and the serious questions.

Today Dr. Fritz will use an “Image Catcher” to capture God’s image. The “Image Catcher” is a box labeled so with a flash camera (or other flash effect) inside. Also in the box is a picture of the face of a child in large group with an X-ray type body. This illustrates Dr. Fritz’s confused attempt to photograph what is on the inside of another person.

Mr. King: Kids, welcome with me Dr. Fritz and his assistant, Albie.

Dr. Fritz: *(Enters with the box.) Good morning, boys and girls.*

Albie: Good morning! Good morning!

Mr. King: Dr. Fritz, thank you for joining us today. What’s in the box?

Albie: Lunch I hope!

Dr. Fritz: *No, zis is not lunch.*

Albie: Okay, then breakfast!

Dr. Fritz: *There’s no food in here, silly bird. Zis is ze instrument for my experiment.*

Mr. King: An experiment? Wonderful. What are you going to do?

Albie: Create a five-pound Twinkie, I hope.

Dr. Fritz: *No, silly bird. Today ve vill discover ze design zat God has given us. Today I vill look inside of a person and find ze image of God.*

Albie: What's the "image of God"?

Dr. Fritz: *Vell, I have heard zat all people vere made in ze image of God.*

Albie: What does that mean?

Dr. Fritz: *It means we look like him.*

Albie: What!? (Prays.) Dear God, please don't tell me that you look like Dr. Fritz.

Mr. King: *Albie, you might be a bit confused and you, too, Dr. Fritz. Being made in God's image doesn't mean we look like God on the outside. It means we are made like God on the inside. We have a spirit.*

Albie: (Turns head upside down.) This is so confusing! It would be so much easier if we just ate five-pound Twinkies.

Dr. Fritz: *Quiet, silly bird. I vill explain it to you using my famous image detector invention.*

Mr. King: Your image detector invention? What does it do?

Dr. Fritz: *It vill take ze picture of ze image of God inside of someone. Let me see who I vill use.*

(Dr. Fritz invites a person to have his picture taken. This will be staged in that the picture of this child has already been taken. The picture will be the face of the child with an X-ray type body. If a Power Point imager is available, this picture could be shown on a screen.)

Dr. Fritz: *Now I vill take ze picture of ze image of God inside zis person. Ve vere made in the image of God so let us take a picture to see vat zis image looks like.*

(To the volunteer.) *Stand here and say cheese...*

Albie: How about saying "Five pound Twinkie"!

Dr. Fritz: *Okay, say "Five pound Twinkie." And I vill turn on the image detector invention.*

(A flash goes off in the box and Dr. Fritz removes the picture.)

Dr. Fritz: *See? Ze image detector invention vorks. I give you ze picture vat ze image of God looks like on the inside.*

Mr. King: Oh no! That looks just like an x-ray. All I see is a crazy skeleton.

Dr. Fritz: *Vell, zat is vat is on ze inside.*

Mr. King: Dr. Fritz, being made in God's image on the inside is stuff you can't see.

Albie: Like when you eat a five-pound Twinkie?

Mr. King: No, it's not that.

Albie: Is it like the gushy stuff, like your guts and stuff?

Mr. King: No. You can't see it. It is your spirit. Here let me read to you from the Bible. Genesis 1:26-27 says, *"Then God said, 'Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness...' So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female."*

Chapter 2, verse 7 says it this way. *"Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the earth and blew the breath of life into his nostrils. The man became a living being."* You see God gave man a spirit.

Dr. Fritz: *But vat does zis spirit look like?*

Mr. King: We can't see it, but it is the real us.

Dr. Fritz: *Do ze animals have ze spirit?*

Mr. King: No, animals don't have spirits. Only people have spirits. Since people have spirits, their spirits will continue to exist even after their bodies die. Their spirits could live forever with God in heaven or their spirits could live forever away from him in hell.

Dr. Fritz: *How does ze spirit know whether it vill be vith God or not?*

Mr. King: Well, when God made all people, he made them perfect. They were holy just like him. Their spirits were filled with perfect love for God and for each other. Just like God is perfect, they were made in his image. They were perfect, too.

Dr. Fritz: *But vat happened to zis perfect spirit inside Adam and Eve?*

Mr. King: They disobeyed God and their spirits were filled with sin. They were called spiritually dead.

Dr. Fritz: *Vat?! Zis is terrible! Did zey lose ze image of God?*

Mr. King: In a way they did. But God made a way that they could be spiritually alive again.

Dr. Fritz: *Vat is zat?*

Mr. King: Jesus came into the world. He died on the cross to take away our sins so our spirits could be alive again. Anyone who believes in Jesus becomes a new creation. They have the new image of Jesus and God's spirit lives in them.

Dr. Fritz: *Vat? All of zis is too confusing. I vish you could just take a picture and show me ze spirit.*

Albie: I wish you could just give me a five-pound Twinkie!

Dr. Fritz: *Quiet, silly bird. Zis is important.*

Mr. King: I'll tell you what I'll do. Let me tell you the story and draw a picture for you and the boys and girls. Maybe that will help you understand.

“Draw Me a Picture: The Image of God”

Object Lesson

Supplies:

- *white poster board or easel paper*
- *bold black marker*
- *four different bright colors of crayons*
(The bigger the crayon the better!)
- *two black crayons*
- *paper clip*
- *handheld mirror*

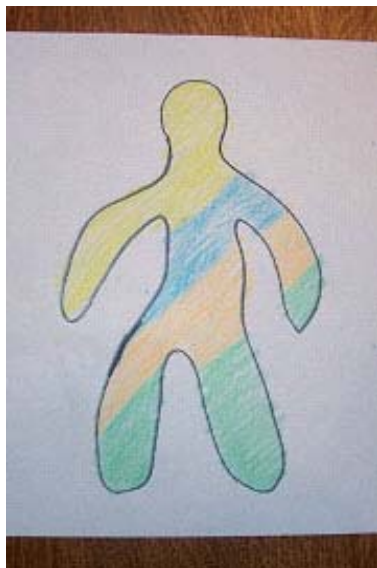
STEP 1

Draw a large outline of a person in black marker. (An outline can first be drawn lightly with pencil so the illustrator can quickly trace it.) As this is being done, say the following:

Mr. King: Remember God created all things and God created humans—both men and women. When he made them, he gave them bodies. Animals also have bodies, but people have something very special that makes them very different from animals. God gave them a spirit.

STEP 2

Rapidly color in the outline of the person with the four different colors randomly arranged. Most important is the speed of getting the person colored.



Mr. King: Let these different colors remind us of the spirit that God breathed inside people. When God gave Adam and Eve spirits, it was an image very much like him. It was as if God was looking in the mirror (*gaze in the handheld mirror*), and then he gave us spirits like his own. Our spirits were filled with perfect love. We had perfect joy and perfect peace. Our spirits were connected to him in perfect friendship. We were like him. Each person’s spirit is special and different. There are no two alike.

This drawing now reminds us of how God made people, Adam and Eve, in his image by giving them spirits that were perfect like his.

STEP 3

Rapidly scribble black over the entire character, even coloring outside the lines. It should look like a big mess! As you do so, explain how sin came into the world.

Mr. King: When Adam and Eve sinned, they said they didn't want to obey God. They wanted to do it their own way. They disobeyed God when they ate the fruit of a tree God told them not to eat from. Sin came into their lives and did a terrible thing to their spirits. It covered them with darkness. They became spiritually dead. Now their spirits were no longer perfect like the image of God. They didn't have perfect love or perfect joy or perfect peace anymore. And they weren't friends with God.

Our spirits can even be that way today. But look what God did.



STEP 4

Use one of the rounded edges of the paper clip as a stylus. In the middle of the person, scratch out the shape of a cross from the black crayon wax. If time permits, you can peel away more black crayon from this cross.



After etching the cross, redraw the outline of the person. You will see the restored color that comes from the new image we receive when Jesus makes us spiritually alive. As you are carving away the black crayon, say the following.

Mr. King: When Jesus came into the world, he gave his life for us on the cross to take away our sin. He took our punishment on his spirit. When we believe in Jesus, we are made spiritually alive. Our spirits are now friends with God. We know his love and joy and peace, and our spirits *want* to serve God.

The Bible says that whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). The darkness is gone and the new image of God can be seen.

We are spiritually dead when we do not believe in Jesus. The darkness of sin covers our spirit so the image of God can't be seen. We become spiritually alive by trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Then God's image—what he's like—comes right through. **God made us in his image—we have a spirit that can live forever.*

“Dr. Fritz Searches for God’s Image”

Drama and Puppet Conclusion

Dr. Fritz: *Now I zink I understand! Our spirits live inside our bodies but ve cannot see zem.*

Mr. King: Yes.

Dr. Fritz: *And our spirits are really who ve are.*

Mr. King: Yes.

Dr. Fritz: *But a terrible zing happened and Adam and Eve sinned. All ze people after zem have zeir spirits covered over with darkness.*

Mr. King: Yes.

Dr. Fritz: *But ven ve believe in Jesus our spirits are made new and zey are alive vith God.*

Mr. King: I think you understand.

Dr. Fritz: *So our spirits vill live in heaven even after our bodies die.*

Mr. King: Fantastic! I think you understand.

Dr. Fritz: *But how can I make sure my spirit is alive?*

Mr. King: When you trust Jesus as your Savior, God’s spirit makes your spirit alive. Let’s pray. I’ll show you how.

Dear God, thank you for making us in your image and giving us a spirit. When you first made people, our spirits were perfect and holy like you. We were in your image. Because of sin, our spirits became darkened or dead. Thank you for Jesus, who gave his life for us and took our sin away so our spirits can now be alive. Please live in our spirits and help us serve you in all that we do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Dr. Fritz: *Fantastic! I have a spirit zat is alive! What more could I vant?*

Albie: A five pound Twinkie!

Dr. Fritz: *Silly bird, enough vith ze five pound Twinkie! Is zat all you zink about?*

Albie: Well, maybe two-three pound Twinkies.

Dr. Fritz: *Come vith me. I'll take you home and give you one Twinkie. *God made us in his image—we have a spirit that can live forever. Zat is good news! Bye, kids! Zank you, Mr. King!*

Mr. King: Bye, Dr. Fritz! Bye, Albie!