



HILLSIDE STUDENTS


Identity - Imago Dei

 Set out snacks! Add new students to the groups app! Take Attendance!

CONNECT

 Play **Shark Tank!** To play, divide students into small teams of 3-5 members. Each team will act as entrepreneurs and come up with a product idea to pitch to the “sharks,” a panel of judges. Provide teams with 10-15 minutes to brainstorm and prepare their pitch, including the product’s name, purpose, target audience, and a catchy sales pitch. Encourage creativity! Meanwhile, designate a few students or leaders as the “sharks,” who will listen to each pitch, ask follow-up questions, and decide whether or not to “invest” in the idea. Each team will then present their pitch to the sharks in front of the group, with 2-3 minutes for the presentation and 1 minute for Q&A. At the end, the sharks can award prizes like “Most Creative Idea” or “Most Likely to Succeed” for fun!

WATCH

 **Set up Discussion:** What do you find your identity in? Is it your position on the team? Your GPA or academic status? Do you find your identity in who your friends are, or what others think of you? When we find our identity in the things of this world, we can get easily rattled when those things change. But, in the very first chapter of the Bible, God gives us a different identity - one that you are created with - that cannot be changed, no matter what happens or who you are. Let’s talk about what it means to be made in the image of God.

 **Pre-Video Question:** Have your group answer one or both questions below!

- If you could be the best in the world at one thing, what would it be?
- Would you rather own a mansion that has rats in every room, or own a rat that has a mansion?

Split up into smaller groups and navigate the discussion below:

READ + DISCUSS

- **Read Genesis 1:26-27.** What does it mean that we are made in God’s image?
- How should knowing that all people are made in God’s image change how you view yourself? How does it change how you treat others?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:20.** What does it mean to be an ambassador for a country? Therefore, what does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?
- What are some things you do that reflect Jesus accurately to those around you? What are some things you do that might misrepresent Jesus?
- **Read Proverbs 27:17.** How can we as a group support and encourage each other to better reflect Jesus to the world around us?

HILLSIDE STUDENTS

Identity - Imago Dei

To be made in God's image is a trait that makes us uniquely human. We have been given an identity by God that can't be taken away or changed but instead comes with a responsibility to represent God well. In this, God tells us that our intrinsic value comes not from our performance, but from knowing that we are made to be image-bearers - reflections of God's character to each other and the world.

Because of this, the way we treat other people matters. If all people have been created in the image of God, our goal as Christ followers should be to see everyone the way Jesus sees them. By mirroring God's love, mercy, and forgiveness, we get to represent who He is to others - whether we act in a way that reflects God accurately or distorts others' idea of Him is up to our actions.

Leaders, as you walk through this week with your students, help them to see the importance of recognizing all people as image-bearers, and encourage them to live in a way that reflects their position as an ambassador for Christ.

Read Genesis 1:26-27 ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

Read Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Genesis Reading Plan

Week 3 | Genesis 3-4

Day 1 – Genesis 3:1-7

Day 2 – Genesis 3:8-19

Day 3 – Genesis 3:20-24

Day 4 – Genesis 4:1-8

Day 5 – Genesis 4:9-16

Day 6 – Genesis 4:17-26

Day 7 – Catch Up/Memorize/Nothing