

Looking and Loving Like God

From stars and starfish to meerkats and the mountains on the moon, God created *everything*! But out of all the things in his creation, only one is created in his image: people. Only *we* are made to look like him.

Does that mean you have the same color eyes or hair as God? Or that you stand as tall as he does, or that he has freckles like you? No, not exactly. What it *does* mean is that you are made to “look” like God in the thoughts you think, the words you say, and the things you do. In other words, you are made to give, and serve, and love like God.

Will that be easy? Not always. Will you do it right every time? Nope! Only Jesus could do that.

Looking like God doesn’t just happen either. Learning to give, serve, and love like him takes practice. *Lots* and *lots* of practice. It’s something you’ll work on your whole life through.

The good news is that God will help you look more and more like him. He’s given you his Word, the Bible, to guide you. And even better? When you decide to follow him, he’ll send his own Holy Spirit to live inside you and help you.

Why did God create you to look like him? Because that way you can go out into the world and show others what he looks like. After all, they were made in his image, and he wants them to look more and more like him too.

God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

GENESIS 1:27





Read All About It

Read more about how God created people in Genesis 1:26-2:23.

Talk About It

Have you ever been hanging out with a friend and then suddenly found yourself talking, or sitting, or laughing like them?

We all do it! We start to look and act like the people we spend time with. So what do you think will happen when you spend time hanging out with God?

Pray About It

God, we thank you for making us in your image. Help us to look more and more like you. We want our words and our actions to show the world what you look like—the God who loves them. Amen.

Let's Do This

Ask God to remind you that *everyone* (yes, that person too!) is created in his image and endlessly loved by him. Next time you're annoyed or frustrated with someone, think of a few ways that person looks like God.

Go Bigger

As a family, choose a verse that will help you love others the way God loves them, and memorize it. But don't stop there! Make it your mission to live out that verse this week. Together, brainstorm ways to do that.

Not sure which verse to pick? Try Matthew 25:35, Ephesians 4:32, or 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Feeling Invisible?

Do you ever feel invisible—and not in that cool, superhero kind of way? Sometimes it can seem like people are just too busy to notice you. Like everyone and everything else are more important. Like no one sees you at all.

That's about how Hagar felt. She was Abram and Sarai's servant—before they became Abraham and Sarah. And it's kind of a long story, but she was also about to be the mother of Abram's child. That made her mistress, Sarai, angry. *Really angry.* Sarai was so horrible to Hagar that she ran away.

Hagar believed no one cared about what she thought or what she wanted. She was scared and alone in the wilderness with no one to help her. It was like she was invisible.

But Hagar wasn't invisible. Not to God. He saw her *and* he sent his angel to help her. Because that's what God does. He sees, and he helps.

God doesn't just see long-ago people of the Bible. He doesn't just see the popular or the “perfect” people either. God sees *everyone*. You know what that means, right? He sees *you* too.

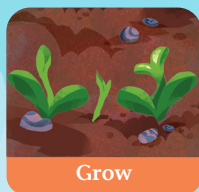
You are *never* invisible to God. He always knows what you're going through. He sees when you win and when you miss the winning shot. He sees when you try to do what's right, but it all turns out wrong. He knows when you don't know what to do.

God sees, and he knows, and he comes to help you.

You are the God who
sees me.

GENESIS 16:13





Read All About It

Read more about how God saw Hagar in Genesis 16:1-14.

Talk About It

When God looks at the earth, he doesn't just see a huge group of people. Instead, he *chooses* to see each and every individual person. He sees you. He knows your name. He knows what you had for breakfast. What does this tell you about God's power? About God's heart?

Pray About It

God, you have so many people and so many things to keep an eye on. Yet you still choose to see and watch over each one of us. That's amazing! Thank you for loving us like that. Amen.

Let's Do This

God sees everyone. It's one of the ways he shows that he cares. Follow God's example today and show that you care by *seeing* the people around you. Look them in the eye and smile. If you know their name, say it. Let them know they are important enough to be seen by you.

Go Bigger

Who's the invisible person in your life? Who gets left out of conversations and picked last for the team? Who doesn't get invited . . . to anything? Have you thought of someone?

Go and talk to them, choose them for your team, invite them to hang out with you and your friends. Be the person who sees them.

Trust God to Bless You

Every once in a while, you'll bump into someone who just seems to enjoy being mean. You might be tempted to bully them right back.

That's probably what Isaac, Abraham's son, was tempted to do. He was all grown up and had a family of his own when a famine struck. He moved his entire household to the land of the Philistines in search of food and water. Scary, right? But God gave Isaac a promise: "I will be with you and bless you" (Genesis 26:3). God kept his promise in a big way!

Isaac's crops and herds of animals grew bigger and better than ever before. His success made the Philistines jealous, though. And their jealousy made them mean. They filled up Isaac's wells with dirt, and their king threw him out of the country!

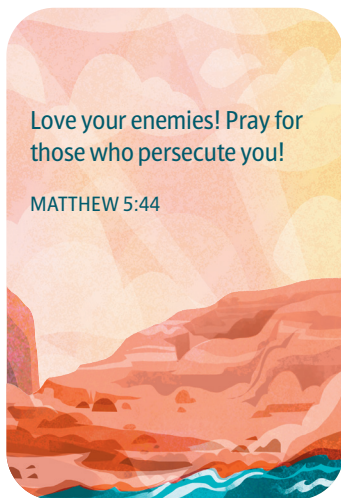
Three times, Isaac moved and dug new wells. Three times his enemies took them from him. Isaac and his servants dug one last well. This time, no one tried to take it away. God had made a place for him.

Isaac chose peace instead of anger, arguing, or fighting back. He trusted God to bless him, just as he promised.

When someone is unkind or even just plain mean, you might be tempted to argue or fight back. But that would be acting *more* like them and *less* like God. Instead, take a deep breath and ask God what you should do. That might be simply walking away, or it might mean finding a grown-up to help you. Trust God to find a way to bless you.

Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

MATTHEW 5:44





Read All About It

Read more about how Isaac trusted God to bring peace in Genesis 26:12-33.

Talk About It

When you're faced with a bully or someone who just isn't very nice, you have choices to make. Talk about some times when it's best to choose to walk away, when you need to stand up for yourself (or someone else), and when you need to ask for help.

Pray About It

God, when we feel pushed around and bullied, help us to know what to do and say—and what *not* to do and say. Remind us that you will make a way to bless us. Amen.

Let's Do This

You know that person who's not so nice? The one who likes to bully and push others around? Talking to them might not be the safest or most fun thing to do, but you can pray for them. Ask God to change their heart and help them learn to love their neighbors too.

Go Bigger

God made a space for Isaac to live in peace. You and your friends can do the same in your neighborhood or school. Band together and decide to be a safe space for other kids where no one gets picked on or laughed at. Pray for each other, be kind, and cheer each other on.