

How Does God See Me?

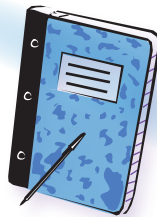
What does God think of me? What does His Word have to say about how He views me? How can I understand His love for me, even when I fail at times? Why did He make me the way He did? These are some of the questions you will be able to answer after studying several different people in the Bible, all with different personalities.



The *Living My Faith*

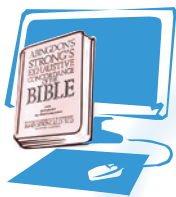
Devotional Bible Study is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers devotions for Monday through

Saturday, along with worksheet to be completed during your group study and articles that will help you better understand and apply God's Word.



Journal: Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class

each week so that you can take notes during the lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.



Bible study tools: In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance. If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation. Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as www.blueletterbible.org. This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study.

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Handmade by God

Monday

If you were asked to describe yourself in twenty words or fewer, what would you say? Write your description here.

This quarter in Sunday School, you will be learning to think about yourself the way God thinks of you. To do this, you need to start at the very beginning.

1. Skim Genesis 1:1–25 and list five things God created.
2. How did God describe His creation (vv. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25)?
3. Read Genesis 2:7, 21, 22. How was the creation of Adam and Eve different from the way God created everything else?
4. How did God describe His creation after Adam and Eve were created (1:31)?

From the very beginning, God gave special attention to mankind.

Tuesday

Along with God's loving attention in creating Adam and Eve, there's something else significant about God's creation of humans.

1. Write this week's memory verse, Genesis 1:27, here and circle the phrase that describes how God created mankind.
2. What do you think this phrase means?
3. How are you different from an animal in your intellect? your emotions? your will?

When God breathed the breath of life into Adam, He invested a great value into him. This man, and all men and women after him, would bear the image of God in flesh and bones.

Wednesday

Did you look in a mirror at some point this morning? Whether you liked it or not, what you saw was your image, or reflection. Just as a mirror's purpose is to show a reflection, your purpose is to reflect God's character.

Because we are sinful, we will not be able to reflect God's character perfectly on this earth, but we can always be working toward being a better reflection. Read the following verses and record how you can reflect God's character.

1. 1 Peter 1:16
2. 1 John 4:7, 8
3. Ephesians 4:32
4. Psalm 89:1, 2

Which of these things do you, an image-bearer of God, need to reflect today?

Thursday

David wrote a psalm that gives us a good perspective of God's creation and that helps us know how to respond to God. Read Psalm 8.

1. What was David considering, or thinking about (v. 3)?
2. What question did he have (v. 4)?
3. What facts did he give about humans in verses 5 through 8?
4. What was David's response to the fact that God gives special attention to mankind (vv. 1, 9)?

When we see all of creation around us and realize that God, Who created it all, pays attention to us and gives us authority over it, our response should not be one of pride. Instead, we should praise God for His mercy and for His excellence!

Friday

In another psalm, David expanded on the ways God is "mindful" of His creation. Read the following sections from Psalm 139 and summarize the special ways God cares for mankind.

1. Verses 1–6
2. Verses 7–12
3. Verses 13–16
4. Verses 17, 18

Saturday

Look back at the way you described yourself on Monday. We often describe ourselves by how we look, what we do, or what we like. But how would God describe you? Review your devotions from this week, and for every day, write a statement that describes you based on the truths you studied.

1. Monday—

2. Tuesday—

3. Wednesday—

4. Thursday—

5. Friday—

WEEK 1

Memory Verse

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27).

Who's Worth It?

by Deb Brammer


"Come, enjoy our restaurant because you deserve it!"

"Buy this rich, creamy hair product because you're worth it!"

Sincere compliments? Hardly. People who write those commercials have never met you. You could be an ax murderer, for all they know. They realize, however, that you will more likely buy their product if they can get you to link your self-worth to it.

They don't say, "Buy our product because it is worth the money." They say, "Buy our product because you are worth the money." And so, many people buy. While you may want to set a limit on what to pay for shampoo, you probably place your self-worth beyond whatever price is being asked for this remarkable product. What sounded like a sincere compliment turns out to be subtle exploitation.

Christians often take a different slant on self-worth. They may say, "You have great worth because Jesus gave His life to make you a child of God. You must be worth a lot."



Sounds good, until we remember that God also describes the person who doesn't know Jesus Christ as "desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). All his "righteousnesses"—the good things he does—are like "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). Christ did not die for us because we are worthy; He died for us because He is a loving God Who doesn't want people to be separated from Him.


Picture this: A man sits down to paint with a paintbrush, canvas, and oils. He loves to dabble in art. He spends many enthusiastic hours painting a scene. When he finishes, he proudly frames his work and gives it to a friend. A few years later, you come along and you buy the painting for a dollar at a yard sale. You like the frame.

Another artist sits down with a similar brush, canvas, and oils. She paints a masterpiece that hangs in a museum. As an art lover, you come by and admire the painting. Do you say, "What a nice frame"? Or

"The oils and canvas have value because of the skillful way the artist used them"? Apart from the skill of an artist, they are worthless.

In much the same way, the Master Artist picks up a palette and brush to paint a life. On His palette are spiritual gifts, differing temperaments, natural abilities, opportunities, and limitations. With great skill He begins to paint. He has all He needs to paint a masterpiece. Our human willfulness causes flaws in the canvas and sometimes refuses to cooperate with His design. Yet He continues to paint and work with the canvas, covering imperfections by His great skill.

Each of our lives is a canvas. We can waste years of life by trying to figure out the worth of our particular canvas. We can compare our own canvas to the canvases of others and wonder why the Great Artist chose to work one way on one canvas and another way on ours. Or we can forget about our worth and con-



concentrate on the work the Artist is doing through us. After all, any of our greatness—our worth—comes as a gift from God. We are beautiful only as our lives show forth His skill.

As we submit to His artistry, we begin to portray His design. As it emerges, we expect a picture of great majesty. Instead we see one of lowliness, one where others are better than self. It is the picture of a servant. And it should come as no surprise, for the Great Artist is also the supreme servant.

Like ordinary canvases and paint, we are worthless apart from the skill of a master. Yet if we cooperate with God's design, under the Master's hand we can be shaped into masterpieces.

Small is the worth of the canvas, yet the worth of the Artist is great. Let each work of God proclaim, "Look at my Designer. He is worthy!"

Mirror, . . . WILL YOU?

Scripture

God's Characteristic

How I Reflect Him

Psalm 99:3-5

1 John 4:7, 8

Psalm 86:5

Deuteronomy 7:9

Who Am I?

I am God's _____.

I am _____ by God to reflect
His _____ to the world.

I am _____ by God. He sent
His _____ to prove it!