

Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW002)

The Big Story of God 2: I am made in the image of God

© Jane Hulme 2015

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



THE BIG STORY OF GOD 2: I AM MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Service Aim:

To teach that we are made “in the image of God” and what that means.

This service can be used on its own or as part of a series of services covering major biblical themes from Genesis to Revelation.

Biblical Reference(s):

Genesis 1:1, 26-28, John 4:24

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	“Family likeness” quiz leading to teaching that we are made “in the image of God”.
Bible Reading:	Genesis 1:26-28
Talk:	How are we like God? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational, Conscience, Creative
Song:	<u>Song about being special</u> (See Appendix 1)
Response:	The “image of God” is spoilt in each one of us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing sins on mirror card and exchanging at cross for new piece of mirror card with Genesis 1:27 written on it.
Lord’s Prayer	
Summary:	We are made “in the image of God” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are “God-like” because we have been created to be relational, moral and creative beings. • We have been created to bring God glory
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the theme of the service is unpacking what it means to be “created in the image of God.” If you are using this service as part of the series: “The Big Story of God”, explain that too.

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”*
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,
We welcome you here today.

**Help us Lord to worship you,
To listen to your Word,
And to pray in faith,
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.
Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Warm-up:

Project or show some photographs of children of well-known people and ask who their father is? Once the father has been guessed, project his image alongside his child’s image. Examples as follows:

- project a picture of Brooklyn Beckham and ask who his father is (ie David Beckham)
- project a picture of Colin Hanks and ask who his father is (ie Tom Hanks)
- project a picture of Jaden Smith and ask who his father is (ie Will Smith)

You could then say the following:

When we are part of the same family we can often look alike can’t we? We have similar features...

- It might be that the family likeness is a large nose, or close together eyes, or a long neck, so that when people look at the children they can say things like, “oh isn’t little “*name*” just like her mum / dad?”

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
© Jane Hulme 2015

The Bible tells us that when God created us, he made us different from the rest of His creation. He made us in His image – with His family likeness. Listen to these verses from Genesis chapter 1.

Reading:

The Bible reading is Genesis 1:26-28 and if possible read from a modern translation of the Bible.

Talk:

You will need some props for this talk ie: a tall cross, or a cross on a high stool that is taller than a woman who will be standing in front of it; some pieces of red cord in one metre lengths, a piece of red cord approximately three metres long, sellotape.

So what does being made in God's image mean?

- How are we God-like?

The first thing to say is that the way that we are God-like is not seen by how we look.

- The Bible tells us that God is spirit (John 4:24).
- so we can't say.....look at Jo...he looks like God because He has the same brown eyes and black hair!

So if being made in God's image isn't about how we look, in what ways are we God-like?

- I want to share three ways that we have been created to be God-like.

1) Firstly we have been created for RELATIONSHIP

God is a God of love and relationship.

- Within God himself, there is constant giving and receiving of love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We were created to be like Him,
- To love and relate to Him and to love and relate to other people.

To illustrate this, can I invite *N* to come and join me.....(*N* needs to be a well-known female in the church with husband, family and friends attending the service. You may wish to pre-warn them that you are inviting them up)

- So *N* has been created for loving relationships. Let me give you a heart to hold. (give *N* a large card red heart to hold)
- *N*'s most important relationship is with God and she shows us her God-likeness by loving Him and enjoying a good relationship with Him....(Take a piece of red cord a few metres long and fix it on something tall behind *N*, for example, a cross. Sellotape the other end to the heart that *N* is holding)

N has a husband....so could he come forward now please. (*N*'s husband comes forward and you give him a piece of red cord about a metre long to hold)

- *N* shows us her God-likeness by loving her husband and enjoying a good relationship with Him. (Take the other end of the piece of red cord and sellotape it to the heart that *N* is holding)

N also has friends.....so could a couple of you come forward now please (*N's friends come forward and you give them each a piece of red cord about a metre long to hold*)

- *N* shows us her God-likeness by loving her friends and enjoying a good relationship with them. (*Take the other ends of the pieces of red cord and sellotape them to the heart that N is holding*)

N also has children.....so could you come forward now please (*N's children come forward and you give them each a piece of red cord about a metre long to hold*)

- *N* shows us her God-likeness by loving her children and enjoying a good relationship with them. (*Take the other ends of the pieces of red cord and sellotape them to the heart that N is holding*)

N also has neighbours, colleagues, and acquaintances.....who we won't call up now or we will be here all day!

- She shows us her God-likeness by loving each one of these people too and enjoying good relationships with them.

Each one of us is the same as *N*.

- We have all been created to have a loving relationship with God,
- and to have loving relationships with other people,
- which means treating people with respect and concern;
- putting their interests above our own.
- Thank you *N* and family – would you like to sit down.

2) The second way we are God-like is that we have been given a CONSCIENCE, which is an inner voice, telling us what is right and what is wrong.

God is holy, perfect and absolutely good.

- Everything God chooses to do is good.

We have been created to know what is good and what is bad,

- What is right and what is wrong,
- so that we can choose to do what is good and what is right.

Let's show our God-likeness by a quick quiz?

- Who thinks it is right to starve their children? Put your hands up if you do.
- Who thinks it is right to punch someone in the face if they are rude to you?
- Who thinks it is right to share what we have with other people?
- So we are like-God in that we know what is right and what is wrong.

3) The third way we are God-like is that we all CREATIVE

At the beginning of the Bible, we are told that: "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*" (Genesis 1:1)

- God is very creative.....just look at all the cool stuff he has made. (*project a picture of creation*)

We are like God in that each one of us is creative in some way.

- Every time you draw a picture (*project a picture of a painting*)
- or write an essay (*project a picture of a book*)
- or bake a cake, (*project a picture of a cake*)

- or build a building, (*project a picture of a building*)
- or name a pet, (*project a picture of a dog*)
- or make some music (*project a picture of a musical instrument*)
- or do something else creative,
- you are showing that you are made in God's image.

So when God created us, He made us like Him in three special ways.

- We have been created to enjoy a loving RELATIONSHIP with Him and with others
- We have been created with a CONSCIENCE, to know right and wrong,
- and we have been created to be CREATIVE.

These are some of the things that make us different from the rest of God's creation – that make us special.

- As you think about the amazing truth that God has chosen to make you in His family likeness – to be like Him,
- perhaps it will help you see that you are precious, that you are important to God – that you really matter.

Song:

Song about being special as per Appendix 1

Response:

You will need two pieces of A6 mirror card and a black pen for each person present, a large cross, drawing pins, stickers with Genesis 1:27 verse on them ie “*God createdin his own image*” - *Genesis 1:27*. Place a sticker at the top of half of the pieces of A6 mirror card and leave them in a pile at the foot of the cross, ready to be picked up.

Being made in God's image comes with a responsibility.

- We are meant to reflect God's image to the world around us,
- so that when people look at us, they see something of God that will glorify Him.

However all of us have often spoilt the image of God in our lives.

- Our relationships, instead of being loving and good, can often be damaged and broken.
- We can know in our conscience what is right and what is wrong, and then choose to do what is wrong.

The root of this is our desire to be in control of our own lives,

- doing what we want, instead of what God wants us to do.
- We can forget that we were created in the image of God; and can sometimes be tempted to act as if we were God!

We are going to take a few moments now to say sorry to God for the ways that we have spoilt His image in our lives.

- The way we are going to do that is by writing down some of the things that we know we have done wrong in black pen across a piece of mirror card.

When we have done that we will bring those cards to the cross.....which is the place where God has promised to forgive us our sins. *(Pass around a piece of mirror card² and a black pen for each person present)*

- We will pin our cards to the cross, facing inwards, so only God can see what we have written.

Let's take a moment of quiet. PAUSE

Father, thank you for creating us in your image.

Please show us where we have spoilt your image in us by sinning.

We want to change.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Now write down on your mirror card any sins that the Lord shows you that you need to confess to Him.

- When you are ready to turn away from those sins, bring your card and pin it to the cross (with the writing facing the wood)
- Pick up a clean card from the pile at the foot of the cross. *(People write on their mirror cards then take them to the cross and pin them on. They pick up a clean card and go back to their seats. When everyone is back say the next prayer)*

Let's pray:

Thank you Father that because Jesus paid for our sins through his death on the cross, we are forgiven if we confess our sins to you.

We receive your forgiveness with thankful hearts.

Would you restore your image in us so that we become more and more like you.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Now on your clean piece of mirror card you will see that there is a sticker on it.

- This sticker reminds you that you have been made in God's image....
- Where the dots are, write in your name *(People write their names on the dots)*

Take that card home and put it somewhere where you will see it regularly.

- Let it remind you that you are very special because you are made in God's image,
- and your life is meant to glorify Him.

Prayers:

You may simply want to say the Lord's Prayer together.

Summary:

You may want to summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

Today we have learnt that the Bible tells us that God created us "in his image,"

- which means like Him.

² You can purchase mirror card from Amazon at www.amazon.co.uk
© Jane Hulme 2015

We are like him, not in the way we look but in three special ways.

- We have been created to enjoy a loving RELATIONSHIP with Him and with others
- We have been created with a CONSCIENCE, to know right and wrong,
- and we have been created to be CREATIVE.

As people made in God's image, we are meant to reflect that image to the world around us,

- so that when people look at us, they see something of God that will glorify Him.

Final Song:

Final song as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- Give thanks to the Lord our God and King (Chris Tomlin © 2001 sixsteps Music)
- Here for you (Jesse Reeves, Matt Maher, Matt Redman, Tim Wanstall © 2011 Chrysalis Music Ltd)
- Over all the earth you reign (Brenton Brown © 1998 Vineyard Songs)
- The Rising sun that fills the sky (Tim Hughes © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- What an amazing God we've got (Becky Drake, Nick J Drake, © 2011 Thankyou Music)

ii) A song about being special because we are made in the image of God. Ideas include:

- Big family of God (Becky Drake © 2007 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Jim Bailey © 1994 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- In all the galaxy (Alan Price © 1990 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- There is no-one else like you (Paul Field arr. Donald Thomson © 1991 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- We can think things through (Image of God) (John Hardwick © 1993 Daybreak Music/Elevation)

iii) Final song. Ideas include:

- All I once held dear (Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music)
- In my life Lord be glorified (Bob Kilpatrick © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Ministries)
- To God be the glory (Fanny Jane Crosby, William Howard Doane)
- You're the Word of God the Father (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2002 Thankyou Music)