



TEACHING OUTLINE

WIRED | SESSION ONE | WIRELESS

BOTTOM LINE

THE IMAGE OF GOD IS ALL AROUND US.



SCRIPTURE

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

GENESIS 1:1, 27 (NIV)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

MATTHEW 22:37 (NIV)

ANGLE OF SCRIPTURE

Wow, there is so much to talk about in the first chapter of Genesis! But in this session, we’re specifically going to focus on two aspects of creation and how they relate to the Great Commandment: that God created everything and that God created us. Because He created the world and He created people in His image, the evidence of Him can be seen all around us.

SESSION SUMMARY

INTRO

How many of you use the Internet? Doesn't the Internet feel like magic? You can't see it, but you know it's there.

TENSION

Sometimes God feels that way. You can see Him, so how do you know He's there? *Tell a personal story.*

TRUTH

If you have doubts or questions about God, you're not alone and God's not mad. *Do the Interactive.* We can see the image of God all around us.

APPLICATION

When we notice the evidence of God around us, He becomes less invisible to us. The image of God in us makes it possible for us to love Him.

LANDING

If you're not sure about God, that's okay. Try to pay attention to the evidence of Him. The image of God is all around us.

QUESTION

WHERE DO I SEE GOD'S WIRING IN THE WORLD AND IN PEOPLE AROUND ME?



TEACHING SCRIPT

WIRELESS

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INTRODUCTION

How many of you use the Internet? What do you use the Internet for? Music? Email? Games? Videos? Homework? How many of you actually know how the Internet works? I bet the smartest person in this room can't explain it. How is it possible to send an email to a friend, and have it instantly arrive on their phone?

One word: Magic.

Ok, not really. But it feels that way, doesn't it? The way words and pictures and music travel without wires across the ocean and even through space is mindboggling. It all happens in nanoseconds with millions of devices using it at the same time. But somehow, nothing really gets mixed up. Thinking about it makes my head hurt.

TENSION

Maybe God feels like that to you. He seems like magic. You come to church and hear people talk about how great He is—how He loves you and how He made you. They talk about their relationship with Him as if it's the most normal thing in the world. But there's one problem that nobody seems to mention: you can't see Him. You can't hear Him. You can't touch Him. Is that weird to anybody else?

TELL A PERSONAL STORY

Tell a personal story that illustrates the following ideas...

- A time you struggled to believe in or understand God because you couldn't see or hear Him.
- Build the tension by dwelling on how you felt in that situation, but don't resolve it.

See, it's easy to believe in the Internet even when we don't see it. Why? Because we see the evidence. We tap our touch screens. We get the music downloads. We watch the videos.

But when it comes to God, we're not getting messages or games or music from Him on our phones. So the whole idea of Him is a little harder to wrap our heads around. How are you supposed to know someone you can't see? How are you supposed to have a conversation with someone who doesn't talk back?

If we're honest, even though we have those questions, most of the time we just don't think about it. But when things don't work out how we want, the questions start to matter more. It's when:

- You're waiting on the results of your tryouts.
- Your parents' finances aren't doing well, and you're not sure what's going to happen.
- Your best friend stops talking to you.
- Your sister gets a diagnosis.
- A tornado hits your town.
- You fail algebra.



In moments like that, there's something in us that wants to know that God is real, that He's close to us, and that He's in control, even if we can't see Him.

Even if there's nothing crazy happening in your life, I'll bet there's a part of you that has questions. Even if you've been a Christian for a long time, sometimes this whole thing feels a little strange, doesn't it?

TRUTH

If you've ever had questions or doubts about God, I want you to know two things: **You're not alone.** Almost everyone, even the super Christians, has those thoughts from time to

time. And **God's not mad.** He isn't threatened when you have doubts or questions.



5 MINUTES

INTERACTIVE: The Mystery of the Shrinking Soda Can

See the Interactive for detailed instructions.

I have an idea that I think is going to help us answer these big questions. You might be wondering what all this stuff is that I have up here. Well, this is an empty soda can. This is a bowl of ice water. And this is a hot plate. While we talk, I'm going to start boiling a little bit of water inside of this can, and we'll come back to it in a second.

There are some things in the Bible that can be helpful as you think about God and what it looks like to have a relationship with Him. We're going to look at some of those today. We're going all the way back to the book of Genesis—the first book of the Bible—to see what it says about God's relationship with people.

The very first words of the Bible say this: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* (Genesis 1:1 NIV). It began with Creation. The Bible goes on to list all the things that God created on the first few days: heavens, earth, water, birds, animals, plants. After each day, the Bible notes that God looked at what He created and said that it was good.

Lots of people have opinions on how all of this went down, but that's not our focus today. For now, I want you to think about one thing: No matter how it happened or how long it took, there was a creation. God is making a point of letting us know that it wasn't by accident. He intentionally wired the Earth to function. It's not random. Then, the writer of Genesis goes on to say something even more interesting.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of

God he created them; male and female he created them (Genesis 1:27 NIV).

Not only did God wire the universe to function in certain ways, He also wired humanity. He created us intentionally to function on the Earth, but He also created us differently than anything else. He created us in His own image. If God created us in His image, then there are parts of Him hard-wired into us. There are things about Him reflected in us.

Maybe you've never noticed it. Or maybe you have, and you just don't know what to call it, but we see evidence of this all the time.

I want you to think about the last time you saw something amazing in nature. Maybe it was a trip to the beach. Maybe you went camping in the mountains. Maybe it was a sunset or a powerful thunderstorm. **There is something about nature, especially the parts of it that only God could create, that moves us.** It makes us feel something. It doesn't matter if you're a Christian or not. This happens to all of us. And when it does, it's the image of God working in you. Just like He looked at each thing He created and saw that it was good,



that part of Him in you looks at the most amazing things in nature and still tells you, "This is good." **The image of God is all around us.**

And it's more than just nature. Things like kindness, forgiveness, and sacrificing oneself to care for others are some of the clearest displays of God's image in us. **The image of God is all around us.**

Now, let's get back to this soda can. Have you ever crushed a soda can before? They're not the most difficult things in the world to crush, but it does take some effort. What if I told you I could crush this soda can right now, with nothing more than air? Maybe air doesn't seem very strong or impressive. But like we're going to see in just a second, air is a powerful force.

But when was the last time you saw air? If I were to ask you to describe what air looks like, sounds like, smells like, tastes like, or feels like, you'd probably struggle with that, right? Here's what I want us to remember,

though: just because we can't see something, doesn't mean we can't see its effects.

So are you ready to see this soda can be crushed by nothing more than thin air? Check this out.

There's a lot of science behind this little experiment that I don't exactly understand, but here's what I do know: air—this thing that we can't see, hear, smell, taste, or touch—is all around us, and it is extremely powerful. And even though we can't see it, we can see the evidence of it.



10 MINUTES

APPLICATION

The same is true for God and us. Even though we can't see Him, there is evidence that He wired us. And **when we begin to see the evidence of His wiring, He becomes a little less invisible to us.**

Let's fast forward a few books and read a verse from Deuteronomy. It says, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NIV).

Moses is telling the people of Israel, the people who had been raised hearing the stories of creation, hearing the stories of God's image being on each and every person - that the most important thing for them to do is to love this God. And the same is true for us.

And that sounds crazy, because we can't see Him. But God says to do this because we are wired to. **The image of God in us makes it possible to love Him.** Look for evidence of

God. And when you see it, acknowledge Him. Thank Him. Appreciate Him. That's loving Him.

In the next couple of weeks we're going to talk about different ways to do this, but it starts with this: look for God. Let the image of God in you look for the image of God everywhere. All it takes is to open your eyes to notice what is around you. Look for places where His wiring is obvious.

- When you see an awesome sunset, notice him.
- When the weather is perfect and you just feel great, notice Him.
- When you do something nice for another person and something in you feels good about it, that's His image in you. Notice Him.
- When you realize your mom loves you even when you don't deserve it, that's His wiring in her. Notice Him.

And I think you'll find, that the more you notice Him, the easier it will be to love Him.



LANDING

I want you to know that if you're still not sure about God and whether or not He exists, that's okay. And if the whole idea of noticing God in everyday life sounds a little strange to you, that's okay too. But I dare you to at least try it. Just try to pay attention for one week. **The image of God is all around us.**

As you go to small groups today, I want you to think about this question: **Where do you see God's wiring in the world and in the people around you?**



15 MINUTES

STOP



TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS