



Relationship to the Rescue

Memory Verse

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."

Genesis 1:26

What if you were made to be like a dog?

If I were a dog...

- I would scratch myself with my leg when I had an itch.
- When it was time to take a bath I would start licking my armpits.
- To eat lunch with my family we would all get down on our hands and knees and eat out of bowls with no hands.
- I would jump up and down and bark when I got really excited.

God Made Us To Be Like Him

God is the Creator of all things. He made the earth, sky, oceans, moon, stars, planets, and all living creatures. But God's most special creation of all is people! Out of all the great wonders of the world, people are His greatest treasure! As God was preparing to make Adam, the first man, He said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26 NIV). Creating us in His *image* means God made us to be like Him. This does not mean that He was making another God. And it doesn't mean that we look exactly like Him. But on the outside, in many ways, we look like God. We don't look like sharks, rhinos, spiders, or even dogs. Although God is a Spirit and does not need lungs to breathe, He created us to look like Him.

We are also made in His *likeness*. This means we have certain qualities and abilities that other creation does not have. We do not have to worry about scratching with our legs or barking for a treat. We can talk, think, reason, and make choices. Nothing else in creation was made in God's image or likeness except for people. God made people very **unique**. And He did it for a reason.



Did you know?

The world's smallest dog is 3.8 inches tall. That is about half the size of a number 2 pencil!



Unique means being the only one. There is no one else exactly like you and no other living thing was made to be like humans.



Why did God make us so unique?

God made us to be like Him so we have the ability to have a **relationship** with Him. God didn't make us because He needed help or was lonely. He made us out of love. He wants us to be able to enjoy knowing Him. And He wants to spend eternity (forever) with us in Heaven.

However, not everyone gets to have a relationship with God. Only the people who choose to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. Let's take a closer look at what it means to have a relationship on the next page.

What is a Relationship?

Think of a person you live with and know a lot about. Maybe it's your mom, your dad, your brother, or someone who lives with you. Imagine that person in your mind. What is something they enjoy doing? What is their favorite food or favorite color? Do you know how they act when they are happy or when they get tired? Do you know something that makes them excited or mad?

Now think about a person that doesn't live with you. You know their name but you don't spend much time with them. Maybe it's a neighbor, a person at church, or school. Imagine that person in your mind. Can you answer those same questions for this person?

Why is it easier to answer questions for the person you live with and see every day? It is easier because you have a **relationship** with that person. Having a relationship with someone means you know a lot about them. You know that person in a personal way. It's more than just knowing their name and a few facts about them. A relationship connects you with another person. You have a lot better relationship with your parents (or the people you live with) than a neighbor that lives down the road. The more time you spend with someone, the better relationship you will have with them. Your relationship is so strong with your parents (or other relatives) that you don't just know a lot about them, but you love them.



Knowing God

Our relationship with God should be similar. We should spend time with God every day by reading His Word (the Bible) and talking to Him (praying). God will teach you things about Himself. And when you learn who He is, you can know what He likes and doesn't like. This will help you make decisions. And you can also know what He wants you to do. What job you should have. Who you should marry. What special plans He has for you. But if you don't take time to get to know God, it won't happen on its own. God's plans for us are much better than what we can come up with on our own. He has so many things He wants to do for us. But we have to know Him to find out what they are.

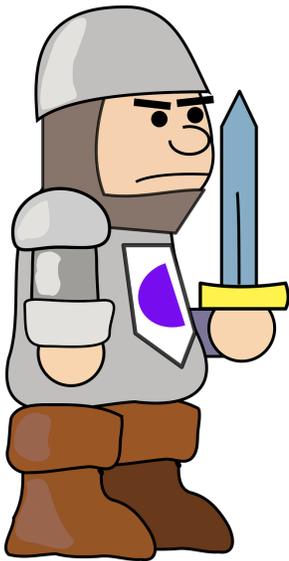


God Rescued Us

God did not make sin. It came into the world after Adam and Eve chose not to listen to God. Now each person is born into sin and it keeps us from being able to have a relationship with God. The punishment for sin is death. And since we are all born into sin, we all deserve to die. God can't ignore that. However, God had a plan to rescue us from sin. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to take the punishment for us. Jesus came to earth and died in our place. If we choose to believe in Jesus, we can be rescued from sin and have a relationship with God!

An Example

In the Bible, God had a special group of people called the Israelites. He had special plans for them and promised to give them a wonderful land to live on. He sent twelve spies to check out the land.



The spies saw how wonderful it was. But they also saw giants who lived there. God told the Israelites He would help them beat the giants. However, ten of the spies did not believe God. And they made most of the others think the same way. The spies made the others afraid. Almost everyone chose not to believe God. The Israelites knew who God was. They had even seen Him split open a big sea, give them food from Heaven, water out of a rock, and many other amazing things. But there was a problem. They didn't have a **relationship** with God and did not know Him in a close way. They only knew some things that He did. If they would have had a relationship with Him, they would have known God would do what He promised and would help them beat the giants. Since they didn't know God and chose not to believe Him, they didn't get to go the special land.

Be Different

There were two out of the twelve spies that were different. They *did* know God and they did believe Him. They wanted to go and fight the giants like God told them to. They were different and were blessed because they were different. If you really start to know God in a close way, you will probably find that you are different than most other people too. This is a good thing! We are supposed to be different! We need to spend enough time learning about God that we don't just know some Bible stories. We should know God so well that we know the Bible is true no matter what we see with our eyes or what anyone else says. (Even if there are big giants coming our way and everyone else is scared!) When you believe the Bible more than anything or anyone else, then God will teach you what to do and you will see amazing things happen in our life!

What are some ways we can learn about God and have a relationship with Him?

Solve the coded message to find out.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z		
12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		

11 6 7 19 18 14 21 18 9 8 7

9 22 26 23 7 19 22 25 18 25 15 22

7 26 15 16 7 12 19 18 14

14 22 14 12 9 18 1 22 5 22 9 8 22 8

25 22 15 18 22 5 22 19 18 8 4 12 9 23

