



WEEK ONE

GENESIS 1:26-28

Image of God

SAY
THIS

God made me
in His image.



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GENESIS 1:26-28

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THIS

God made me
in His image.

DO
THIS



MORNING TIME

When you greet your child this morning tell him or her, "How God created you is amazing and wonderful and I praise Him for that." Give him or her a hug while you say this.

REMEMBER THIS

"How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that.
What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."
Psalm 139:14, NIV

LIFE
APP

INDIVIDUALITY—Discovering who you are meant to be

DO
THIS



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INDIVIDUALITY—Discovering who you are meant to be

HELPING KIDS COME ALIVE

By Mike Tiemann

I'm not sure what I expected it to be like—getting to know my kids. I guess I figured that on some level, they would be miniature versions of me. I didn't really think about the fact that they would be always changing . . . always growing . . . always *becoming*.

In hindsight, I think I underestimated God. I don't think I fully appreciated the depth of His creativity. But I do now. I see it every day in my two girls—in their unfolding identity, and in all their beautiful complexity. Parenting them is constantly surprising. Sometimes it's baffling. But it's certainly never boring.

I guess I should have seen it coming. I'm not the same person now that I was when I was 8, or 12, or even 25. I have a back story of my own. And I've also seen first-hand what the support of loved ones can do along the way. I've seen how others can draw out the best parts of us, while also lifting us up when we fall.

When I take stock of my life from a wider view, through the years, my parents and teachers did it right. They helped me to identify the things in me that *made me come alive*.

And as a dad, I want to do what all those supportive people did in my

foundational years. I want to identify the things in my kids that they might not even see in themselves. I want to help them discover those things, and then learn how to use them in constructive ways.

What I really want to know is . . . *what makes my kids come alive?*

What are those unique traits that God hardwired in my girls? How can I encourage each of them to embrace the way they were made? And who are some other people who can come alongside them and encourage them—maybe even in a way that I can't?

My kids were made in the image of God, just like me. Trying to understand them can sometimes seem like a moving target. But that doesn't mean I'll ever stop trying. After all, that might be one of my most favorite things about being a parent: anticipating the thousands of tomorrows we'll have together . . . as we get to know each other all over again.

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