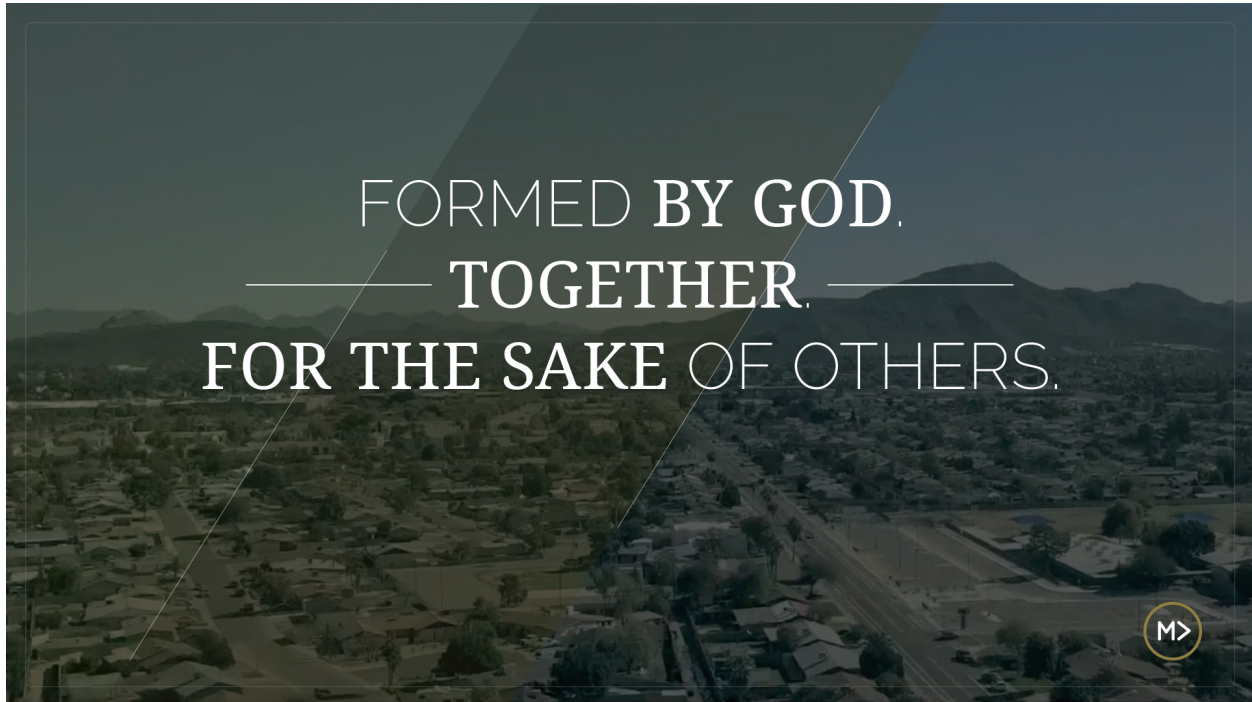


FORMED BY GOD. TOGETHER. FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.



## Week One - Formed by God.

### **A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*We want to start the year by reminding ourselves who we are and how God has called us to live. First and foremost, we want our lives to be shaped and formed by God. Pray about how this time with the kids will be formative for their understanding of what it means to be with God and formed by Him.*

- **Big Idea:** Our lives are always being formed by something — we want God to form us above all else!

### **Starter**

- **Evidences of Grace**

*Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*

- **Play-Doh**

*There are little cans of Play-Doh in the classroom. Ask the kids to form whatever they think of. Then ask what they would do or think if they could somehow suddenly make their creation come to life and have breath!*

### **Sing Together**

**Story - from Genesis 2 / Romans 12 / 2 Corinthians 5 / Philippians 1:6**

Do you know that when God first made all things He simply spoke it into existence? He said, “Come forth, sun. Exist, stars. Spring to life, flowers.” Or something like that, at least.

And they all did.

But when God made the first humans, He chose to do it a little differently. He stooped down to the earth He created and scooped up some of the soil. It was mixed with watery mist that was springing up from the ground, so it was muddy, like clay. Then, getting His own hands dirty, He formed the shape of a man. And God made the human to look like Himself — to be like a statue representing what God is like!

Then, something amazing happened; He then breathed His very own breath into the lifeless clay and suddenly the man had the breath of life! He was a living, breathing, human.

God formed the woman with His own hands, too, right from the man. It was as if God took some of the extra clay from the man and made another statue, then gave her His breath of life also.

God didn't just want to form their physical bodies. He also wanted to form how they would live with their breath. He walked and talked with them and showed them how to live. He wanted to form for them what was good and not good, so they would know the best way to live. But unfortunately, they started to believe a lie that would de-form their way of thinking, and instead of trusting God they tried to decide what was good and bad for themselves.

Their mistrust and rebellion (their 'sin') started to deform their entire lives and even deformed the world they were created to live in and care for. But God was on a mission to re-form the humans and all of creation back to what it was intended to be.

He even went as far as to form Himself into the image of a human, Jesus, to once again come down to earth and get His hands dirty in the soil, to show the humans what was good and not good. The ways of Jesus were meant to transform the way humanity lives. But humans were so deformed that they couldn't become like Jesus, the true human, just by watching him. And Jesus knew this, so he took on the very deformity of sin to the point of allowing his body to die and enter the grave. Then, just like in the first human, God's Spirit breathed new life back into Jesus' body and he lives again forever! Jesus' resurrected body was meant to be the first of many to come.

\* \* \*

Jesus promised God would send His Spirit to breathe the breath of life back into any human who trusts Jesus' way, to re-form us into the new, true humanity. And He did just that. God breathed His Spirit on the followers of Jesus. When we rest in God's Spirit and follow the ways of Jesus, our lives are being transformed into what it looks like to be truly human. But if we give into the world's ways and ideas of what's good and bad, we are conformed into something less than human — less than what God created us to be.

The good news is, if you put your trust in Jesus, God promises to finish what He started! He will transform you completely into something marvelous: a human who reflects the glory of God and gets to live with God forever!

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- Did you know we are like the clay you shaped earlier? We are meant to always be formed and shaped — and something is always forming us. What might be forming you, other than God?  
*(help kids think of friends, shows, apps, family, etc.)*
- What might it look like for God to form you?
- The voices we listen to and the rhythms we practice help decide who or what is forming us. How can we create space for God to form us instead of others?  
*(help kids think of the BLESS rhythms, prayer, reading the Bible, serving others, etc.)*

### **Breakout Time**

- **Prayer:**  
God, we want you to shape our lives. Let us be like the clay in your hands. Form us and make us into your image and fill us with your Spirit so we can be more like your perfect Son, Jesus. Amen!
- **Craft:**
  - Have the kids draw a self portrait. Let them show it to the class and explain how the picture represents them.
  - OR Give them more time with the Play-Doh
- **BLESS Activity:** *\*For kids to do during the week\**  
*Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.*

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm. Take some time to listen to what God says by reading the Bible together as a family.

# God Made Me!

Listening

Wonderful

Helping

Guarded

Happy

Beautiful

Ears

Eyes

Hands

Feet

Mouth

Heart