

Created in God's Image

Grades 5–8 • Religion

ADMIT ONE

NAME

DATE

CLASS

Key idea: The Catholic Church teaches that every person is made in God's image — called *imago Dei* in Latin (Genesis 1:26–27). This means every human being has sacred worth and dignity, regardless of their race, background, or circumstances. Nobody can take that away.

PART 1

O1

The scripture

"Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness'... So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them."

GENESIS 1:26–27

1. In your own words, what does this passage say about every person's value?

2. If every person is made in God's image — what does it mean when someone is treated as less important or less valuable than others?

PART 2

O2

The Harlem Renaissance connection

During the Harlem Renaissance, Black artists, writers, and musicians were saying through their work: our lives matter, our culture is beautiful, our stories deserve to be told.

3. How is that the same as what Genesis 1:26–27 says?

PART 3

03

Seeing dignity in art

Aaron Douglas — *Aspects of Negro Life: An Idyll of the Deep South*, 1934. Douglas painted Black figures as strong, hopeful, and worthy of great art.

4. Aaron Douglas painted Black figures as noble, powerful, and spiritually meaningful. How does this painting affirm the idea of *imago Dei*?

PART 4

04

Your reflection

5. Write one sentence about how you can affirm someone's dignity — in your school or family — this week:

MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION

The Harlem Renaissance artists were doing in paint and poetry what the Church teaches about every person: that you are sacred, that your story matters, that your life has infinite worth. As you explore the exhibition, notice how each artwork asserts human dignity.

minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/harlem-renaissance

PRAYER

Lord, help me to see your image in every person I meet — especially those who are treated as if they don't matter. Give me the courage to say, as the Harlem Renaissance artists did: every person is beautiful and worthy. Amen.