

6th & 7th Grade Edge Homestudy

Lesson #4: Binary Code

Does My Body Matter?

GOAL

The goal of this lesson is to help you to see your identity as a man or woman as a gift that is given to you by God for a purpose.

GAME

Complimentary Code

Unscramble the following words to decode the Scripture verse.

1. oS
2. oGd
3. taercde
4. amn
5. ni
6. siH
7. now
8. geami
9. ni
10. het
11. egami
12. fo
13. doG
14. eH
15. aetrced
16. mih
17. laem

18. dan
19. eemalf
- 20.eH
21. detaerc
22. meht

Write the decoded Scripture verse here:

TEACHING

The Code

01001000 01100101 01101100 01101100 01101111 00100001

What does the sequence above mean to you? Probably nothing, however, it actually means “hello” in binary code.

Computers use this two-symbol system to communicate with each other. When the zeros and ones are sequenced together in a specific way, they have meaning. There are a lot of things in the world of technology that follow specific formulas and patterns to create things like websites, apps, and even specific systems of communication between computers.

In a similar way, our bodies are made up of genetics which are incredibly complex systems and formulas, which are like a recipe for who we are. These codes found within our genetics determine many things about us from our eye color, hair color, height, and even our gender.

Human cells contain two sets of 23 chromosomes. We get one set of chromosomes from each of our parents, which gives us a total of 46

chromosomes. One pair of these chromosomes determines whether we are male or female. If you have two X chromosomes, you are female; if you have an X chromosome and a Y chromosome, you are male. The biological code, the combination of these chromosomes, determines whether we are male or female. “‘Being man’ or ‘being woman’ is a reality which is good and willed by God” (CCC 369).

Created Male and Female

Read Genesis 1:27

Our bodies matter and our gender matters, because there is something we each uniquely reveal about God in both our body and our soul. (CCC 369) Both men and women are created in the image and likeness of God and have the same dignity; therefore, they are equal. (CCC 369)

While men and women have equal dignity, there are differences between them — both obvious and mysterious — and these differences are good and willed by God. (CCC 370) For example, there are obvious differences between male anatomy and female anatomy, but there are also differences in how men and women express who they are, approach the world, and live out their identity that are less obvious and more mysterious and complex. These differences are not meant to divide men and women from each other; rather, they show us that we are created to work together and help one another. (CCC 371-373)

Going Deeper

Read Genesis 2:18-23. As Adam encountered the different animals, he discovered that he was set apart from them and the rest of creation. He realized that he was different and needed to find another creation like him, so God created Eve.

There are many different ways we can help one another and work together, using our specific strengths and talents in a way that is unique to us as an individual and reveals a different aspect of what it means to be a man or a woman. For example, both men and women are strong, but perhaps you are

strong in a way that is different from the person next to you — you might be physically strong, you might be mentally strong and able to solve complex problems, or you may be emotionally strong and able to handle really tough situations. For example, both men and women should be kind and caring, but you might express that in different ways — some of you might use your words to tell others you care about them, some of you might give hugs or high fives, and some of you might show someone you care about them by doing a kind act.

***Pastoral Note:** The purpose of this teaching is not to discuss or enforce gender stereotypes but to recognize the vast and unique ways both men and women can reveal an aspect of who God is. There will be youth in your program who do not see themselves as fitting into traditional gender stereotypes or roles, which is OK. This teaching aims to help them see how they are a man or a woman, regardless of where they fit into stereotypes or not, because they were created that way by God.*

Complex Identities

There are biological realities and theological truths that reveal the plan and purpose God had in creating men and women as well as the goodness in them. Our bodies reveal to us whether we are a man or a woman. As humans, our bodies and souls are united completely, making us entirely male or female. The reality of how we are created is foundational to who we are. Our identity as men and women is important, but it is also complex.

There are as many ways of being a man as there are men in the world, and there are as many ways of being a woman as there are women in the world. As you continue to understand who you are, there may be times when you feel like you do not fit into a certain understanding of what it means to be a man or a woman, but that does not mean you are not a man or a woman.

Manhood or womanhood is not achieved by something we do; rather, it is a reality of how we were created.

God created you as a man or a woman for a specific reason. God knows every detail about who you are and who He created you to be; He even knows how many hairs are on your head. (Luke 12:7) Do not be afraid or anxious if you feel lost or confused about who you are; you do not have to have all of the answers right now. You have time to discover your identity, and you have time

to find the infinite goodness in being created as a male or a female. With great love and patience, God wants to reveal to us who we are. All we have to do is continually turn to Him for the answers, for He is the one who created us and knows us perfectly.

Prayer

In the Image of God

PART ONE

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and then say the following prayer:

God, you were very clear in Scripture: both men and women are created in your image. As a (man or woman), I reflect something unique about who you are that would not be known if I did not exist. God, I thank you for who I am. I ask for your help to reflect you in my unique way as a (man or woman) to the world.

Think of one way that you reflect God.

Then take time to think of one area of your life where they can reflect God more.

PART TWO

God, I know all of humankind, both men and women together, reflect you in a complete way. Without (opposite gender), I would not know an important part of you. Help us work together to reflect you fully. God, I thank you for (opposite gender), and I ask you to help me always see them as good. I ask you to help us have relationships that are respectful and caring, not mean and hurtful. God, I thank you for who you created (opposite gender) to be, and I ask you to help them reflect you in their unique way.

Take some time to think of one prayer or petition for those of the opposite gender in your life.

Close the time of prayer with a Glory Be.

Lectio Divina

Read Genesis 1:27 & 2:7

What word or verse jumped out at you?

What is God saying to you through this scripture?

What is God asking you to do?

Read Ecclesiastes 3:11

What word or verse jumped out at you?

What is God saying to you through this scripture?

What is God asking you to do?

