

# How God sees people

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”  
**Genesis 1:27 (NIV)**

*This session guide outlines suggested elements you might use to help answer the key question below and achieve the aim of the training session. The time allocations can be adjusted according to the amount of time you have.*

**Key question:** How should we see the unbelievers around us?

**Aim:** To view unbelievers the way God sees them – made in His image, under His wrath but not beyond His grace.

## Pre-video ice breaker/discussion starter (3 min)

**When you see people out and about, what honestly strikes you first and foremost about them (i.e., their class, colour, ethnicity, dress, sex etc)?**

*We would recommend people split into pairs or triplets to discuss this and further questions. If you are doing more than one session over a period of time, it may be helpful for people to stick to the same pairs/groups so that they can build trust and support one another consistently.*

*We'd also recommend you either print the list of questions or display them on a screen if meeting in person. Put them into the chat feature before you head into breakout rooms if you're meeting online.*

## Play video by Ray Brown (approx. 10 min)

Download here: [apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2-vid-download](https://apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2-vid-download)

## Practical exercises and discussion questions (15 minutes)

*Below is a list of questions to consider using. You will not have time for all of them, so select those that you think will be most helpful for people to internalise and apply what they've just heard. Maybe you can think of others.*

1. Do we really see people as made in God's image, precious to Him? How can we grow in remembering this truth and relating to people accordingly?

# How God sees people

2. Do we really see people as under God's wrath? How often do we remember that a future day of judgement is coming when God's wrath will be poured out?
3. How does the reality of the coming day of judgement impact our desire to share the gospel with unbelievers?
4. God dealt with His anger towards our rejection by paying the price Himself in Christ Jesus at the Cross. How does this truth help us in explaining the gospel and who God is to unbelievers?
5. How does the truth that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace affect how we relate to others? Do we live as though we really believe this truth?
6. How has this session helped you to perhaps begin to think differently about people? How could you show people practically that you see them the way God sees them?

## Prayer time (12 min)

*We would recommend leaving some time for people to pray in their pairs or groups. You may like to ask them to reflect and pray about what has encouraged or challenged them from this session. They may like to include these points:*

- Praise God that we are made in His image and saved by His grace through Jesus Christ.
- Confess and repent of our sinful tendencies not to see people the way He does.
- Ask God to draw people around you to Himself and to help you lovingly connect and journey with them towards life in Jesus.

## Further Bible Reflection (10 min)

*This is an additional Bible reflection to go deeper into the main theme. You may choose to use it as part of the training session. Alternatively, you could hand it out on a printout / email it around for reflection during the week, along with the "take home" questions.*

### Read Mark 10:17-31

**Context:** In this chapter of Mark's gospel, we encounter Jesus teaching his disciples about divorce, humility, wealth and true discipleship.

# How God sees people

**Commentary:** In the encounter with the rich young ruler, we see how much Jesus loved him but Jesus also exposes the way in which the young man's trust in his own wealth and self-righteousness were barriers to true faith.

**Comment:** Discuss what we learn from this passage about how God sees people.

## Take home

*You may like to print out / email around this section so that people can re-watch the video and reflect further.*

Why not re-watch the video with a notebook open, praying that God will root these principles into your heart. Watch here: [apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2-view](https://apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2-view)

To help us get in the habit of seeing people the way God sees them, try saying a quick prayer for as many people as you can that you encounter or see in your everyday life such as the supermarket staff, bus drivers, people on the street etc. You may like to intentionally take a prayer walk around your area. Let your prayers for people be driven by the truths that if they are not Christian, they are precious to God but under His wrath and in need of His saving grace.

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The training video is available for anyone to watch at [apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2-view](https://apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2-view)

More stories from everyday believers can be viewed and downloaded at [apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2](https://apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2)