



November 2018

Recognizing the Image of God

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26-31, Mark 2:1-12

FOCUS MINISTRY

Transformational Development

fellowship!

“Seeking Transformational Development”

Winter 2018

https://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/winter18_fellowship-final/16

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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What do you think of when you hear the word miracle? Do you think of Jesus healing? Do you think of the impossible becoming possible? Have you ever thought of a cow being a miracle? In Macedonia, cows are miracles. “With one cow, a family can climb out of poverty and even help its neighbors” say Jeff and Alicia Lee, CBF field personnel in Macedonia. Aya (which means miracle) Farm, is one partnership the Lees have in Macedonia that helps lives to be transformed. Gazmend Muhafemi, a young Macedonian man who owns the farm and is Lee’s partner in the cow bank, puts it this way: “It’s a miracle because, before we started farming, we never know about farming”. Previously a marketing manager and purchasing manager for companies in Macedonia and Afghanistan, he quit to spend less time traveling and more time with his family. He and his wife, Aylin, have a five-year-old son named Diar. “Now we have a successful corporation, he marveled. “Our number of cows is going up and up. We increase the number of the cows and we are prospering day by day.”

Aya Farm is just one of the Lees’ partnerships in Macedonia. From the story: “The Lees are helping Natalia Gura build a foster home for needy children; assisting Dusko Hristov expand his food bank – the first in Macedonia—from his small apartment to a large warehouse; helping the Poraka Day-Care Center in Volcovo educate and provide daily care for 50 special needs adults; assisting a group of bivocational itinerant pastors feed their families and congregations, and partnering with a Jesuit organization to assist international refugees.” All of these partnerships have the goal of transforming the Macedonian people physically, spiritually, and emotionally. These partnerships want to see the image of God in everyone and in creation. “All those partnerships contribute to an even larger strategic goal – to foster the image of God in people, communities and even creation. “When I see the people of Macedonia, I see God—I see the image of God in them,” Jeff said. “We celebrate God’s imprint on us as humans that we are created in the image of God. When we recognize the image of God in people, and when they recognize it themselves, that’s when that change occurs.”

- **ENGAGE:** Students will think about and discuss what it means to see the image of God in everyone.
- **EQUIP:** Students will study the verses of God creating the world and of Jesus healing the paralytic, and discuss what it means to care for creation and for one another.
- **EXTEND:** Students will consider and discuss how they care for both creation and their neighbors.
- **MISSION PROJECT:** Students will look for ways both locally and globally in which they can care for fellow creatures and fellow human beings.



Recognizing the Image of God

LEARNING GOAL

Students will learn what it means to give hope to their neighbors thorough physical, spiritual, and emotional means.

GETTING READY

1. Have an adult ready to receive youth
2. Have bibles ready for scripture study, and be prepared to lead discussion on texts in Genesis and Mark.
3. Write questions on whiteboard, chalkboard, or something similar.
 - How would you define miracle?
 - Have you ever seen a miracle? What was it like?
 - What is a way you have cared for creation that is around you?
 - What is a way someone has cared for you?
4. Print out the blog story by Greg Warner about Alicia and Jeff Lees' work in Macedonia.
5. Research ways in which your youth can take part in taking care of both creation and their neighbors.

ENGAGE

1. Welcome students to their normal meeting place.
2. Ask the students:
 - How would you define miracle?
 - Have you ever seen a miracle? What was it like?
 - What is a way you have cared for creation that is around you?
 - What is a way someone has cared for you?

EQUIP

1. Have youth read Genesis 1:26-31, and Mark 2:1-12.
2. Ask:
 - What do you think God meant by telling humans to have dominion over creation?
 - Do you think humans have a higher place in creation than animals? Why or why not?
 - What did Jesus notice for him to heal the paralytic?
 - What were the reactions to Jesus healing the man?
 - Imagine you were one of the paralytic's friends. What would you do for your friend to be healed?



EXTEND

1. Read the *fellowship!* story on CBF work in Macedonia.
 - Read the first page.
 - Ask the youth: what's so important about a cow? How does it help families in Macedonia?
 - Read the second page.
 - Ask: What other partnerships did you notice that the Lees have with people in Macedonia? How are they helping take care of creation?
 - Read the last page.
 - Ask: How would you describe the Lees' philosophy of mission in Macedonia? Do you agree with this philosophy? Why or why not?

MISSION PROJECT

1. Talk to your pastor or missions committee about relationships that your church already has with organizations that help take care of creation. Do you help with park clean ups, community gardens, or animal rescues? If not, how can you start a new initiative?
2. Does your church work with organizations that help transform lives in your community, either by helping through finding work, shelter, or helping with emotional needs like counseling? How can you help with these projects? Or, how can you help start a new one? What population do you notice in your community that needs assistance?
3. See the work the Lees are doing firsthand in Macedonia:
 - You can find their Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/partnershipmacedonia
 - You can support Alicia and Jeff's work in Skopje, Macedonia here: <https://cbf.net/lee>

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