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smagazine
(3, 1999)

- Q: Apart from physical challenges, if you've been the victim of any abuse, who knows about that besides you and the person or persons responsible?
 - If nobody else knows, what do you have to gain or lose by keeping it to yourself?
- Q: Whether or not you've told another human, there is someone who already knows: God. What do you think he might have to say to you about what you've been through and how that's affecting you now? If you're not sure, ask a Christian adult—like a parent, teacher, or youth pastor—who might be able to help you figure it out.

God: the before and the after

GOD'S-EYE VIEW

Here's some background on Genesis 1:25-2:1.

This is the beginning of the story of sexual identity. In fact it's the beginning of the story of everything human. Read through the passage carefully. You may be surprised about how much bad stuff happened as a result of human rebellion against God.

THINK ABOUT IT

Look at Genesis 1:25-2:1.

- Q: What do you think are the big ideas in this passage? Why do those seem important to you?
- Q: Can you see any difference in the design criteria for animals in verse 25 and humans in verses 26 and 27? If so, what is it?
- Q: What do you think about verse 27?
 - What do you think that means? Why?

God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

WRITE ABOUT IT

- Q: Can you identify any glimpses of God's image in you? What are they?
 - How do you believe that image is affected by your own sin and wrongdoing?

The most common word used for *sin* in the Bible, means *missing the mark*. Imagine you're holding a bow and arrow, ready to shoot at a target. Your aim is off and your shot veers right or left of the target. Well, in this case, the target is God's will for us, which is to love and serve him first and others second. And boy howdy, do we miss that target a lot.

GOD'S-EYE VIEW

Some folks believe sin has completely obliterated the image of God in humans. Others believe it's only hidden it, as a blanket can hide something special or valuable. Either way, sin has created a problem for us—a problem so big that only God can help us.