

Worksheet E: *Tzelem / Tzilum*

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כְּדְמוּתֵנוּ וַיְרִדוּ בְדִגְתַּי הַיָּם וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם
וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל-הָאָרֶץ וּבְכָל-הָרֶמֶשׂ עַל-הָאָרֶץ. וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָדָם
בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצַלְם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם.

“God said, ‘Let Us make a human in Our image [*b'tzalmeinu*], according to our likeness [*kid'muteinu*], and they will rule over the first of the sea and over the birds of the skies, and over the animals, and over all the earth, and over every moving thing that moves upon the earth.’ God created the human in His image [*b'tzalmo*], in the image [*b'tzelem*] of God He created him, male and female He created them.”

- Genesis 1:26-27

1. What do you think is meant by our having been created in the *tzelem* or “image” of God (especially since God is said to have no physical form)?
2. What are the implications of this for the way we act in the world?
3. Why do you think God uses both of these words—image (*tzelem*) and likeness (*d'mut*)? How are they different?
4. The modern Hebrew words for photography and camera—*tzilum* (צילום) and *matzlema* (מצלמה)—are closely related to *tzelem* (צלם). What does photography have to do with the “image of God”?