
PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - Romans 12

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5

Reflect - How can you recognize and celebrate the original way God made you?

- A. Ask God to help me see what makes me unique.
- B. Thank God for what makes me unique.
- C. Find ways to serve others using my unique gifts and talents.

Pray - Thank You, God, that You have made me special and unique. Thank You that You have a special place and role for me in the world. Help me to always remember that You made me on purpose and for a purpose. Amen.

Prepare - In what ways has God made you special and unique? How can God work through those gifts to make a difference in the world?



BIBLE STORY

Gifts in the Church
Romans 12

**Yet LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are
our potter; we all are the work
of your hands.**
Isaiah 64:8

BIG TRUTH

*I AM UNIQUELY DESIGNED
BECAUSE...*
God made me original.

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Backwards Charades

WHAT YOU NEED: Slides on screen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into 2 teams.
- Invite one player from each team to the stage.
- Display a slide, directing the audience to act out what is on the screen and the players on stage to guess. Award a point to the team who guesses correctly first.
- Allow the kid who guessed correctly to stay for the next round. Pick a new kid for the other team.
- Do not allow kids to stay on stage for more than 2 rounds in a row.
- Tally the points, and declare a winning team.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- You all did a great job helping your team players figure out what was on the screen! Even though you were all acting out the same prompt, you each did it a little differently. Ask, "Why?" (Why?) It's because God made each of you different and unique! No one here is exactly like someone else. God made you to be just the way you are, piece by piece. How cool is that? Let's keep learning about how we are uniquely designed by God.

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: God uniquely designed each and every one of you. God made you original. That means you are different from everyone else! You have a specific part to fill in God's great big world. He knew exactly what He was doing and what He had planned when He made you. Say, "God made me original!"

(Open the Bible.) Today, we are going to learn from the Bible. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself! Our Bible story today comes from a book in the Bible called Romans. Say, "Romans!" (Romans!) The book of Romans is in the New Testament, the second part of the Bible about Jesus and his followers. Paul, an early follower of Jesus, wrote this book to other people who followed Jesus living in the city of Rome. Paul understood that each person was uniquely designed by God. Let's open the Bible and see what Paul says! Say, "Let's check it out!" (Let's check it out!)

AFTER THE LESSON: Paul compared people to a human body. Now, that might sound kind of strange to us, but Paul was giving a word picture to help people understand how the church works together.

Everyone, point to your eye. (Point to your eye.) Now everyone, point to your foot. (Point to your foot.) The purpose of a foot is different than the purpose of an eye. An eye can see a soccer ball coming while a foot can kick it! Even though a foot is uniquely designed differently from an eye, we need both to be able to kick a ball!

This Bible passage from Romans 12 helps us understand that God made us original. Everyone, say, "God made me original!" (God made me original!) You are special, and no one else is exactly like you. God uniquely designed each of you. When you believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him, you receive special gifts from God. Now these gifts are not like presents you would receive from your friends or family. Instead, these are gifts from God Himself of special ways you can follow Him and help others. Your gifts have a purpose. Ask, "What's the purpose?" (What's the purpose?) Well, just like Paul said, when we believe in God and follow Him, God gives us gifts so we can encourage others, help others, and point others to Him.

3. SMALL GROUPS

1. **Close your eyes and think about this. Two friends are working on a puzzle together. One person believes that some pieces of a puzzle are more important than others. The other person believes that all the pieces are equally important. Now open your eyes. Who would you agree with and why?**
 - o Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.
 - o Each piece of a puzzle was specifically designed by the puzzle maker to fit in its specific spot. In the same way, God uniquely designed you to be original, just like a puzzle piece!
2. **The Bible tells us God has uniquely designed each of us to be original. Let's open our Bibles to Romans 12:4-5 and read about it together. These Bible verses say that God has made us special and unique so we can help one another. What are things that make you special and unique?**
3. **When we trust in Jesus and follow Him, God gives us special gifts. Those gifts aren't just for us! These gifts are for us to help other followers of Jesus and point people to God. What are some ways we could use the gifts God has given us to help others or point people to Jesus?**
 - o Encourage kids to think about the things that come easily to them and then how they could use that to bless others. Are they really good at math? They could help a classmate who is struggling. Are they quick to notice other people's needs? They could jump in and help their parents without being asked.
4. **The Bible tells us we are uniquely designed by God and He created each of us original. God made us on purpose, piece by piece. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about?**

PRAY TOGETHER: God, thank You for making each of us special and unique. You made us original, and we know that we are one of a kind! You are a creative God! Help us use the gifts You have given us to follow You and help others. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Puzzle Relay

WHAT YOU NEED: Small Puzzles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split your group into 2 teams or pair up with another small group.
- Set out a puzzle for each team.
- Tell kids that they will run up to the pile of puzzle pieces one at a time and bring it back to their group. Back at the group, they will be putting the puzzle pieces together to complete their puzzle.
- Whichever team completes their puzzle first wins.
- If time permits to play again, have teams switch puzzles.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Could you have finished your puzzle if you were missing a piece? (Allow answers.) You're right! Your team needed each piece because each piece is a special and unique part of the puzzle.
- That's just like how God made you! God made each of you unique, piece by piece. Each of you is special and one of a kind, like these puzzle pieces. He purposefully created each part of you, "Piece by piece!"

PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - Jeremiah 1

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 1:5-8

Reflect - How can you fight against doubts when it comes to God working through you?

- A. Remember Bible verses like Jeremiah 1:5 and Psalm 139:14.
- B. Pray and ask God to help me believe the truth rather than my doubts.
- C. Ask others to share what they see in me.

Pray - God, thank You for setting me apart for a purpose. When I struggle to believe that You want to work through me, help me to turn to You and remember the truth about my design. Work through me to fulfill your plans and purpose for my life. Amen.

Prepare - Who has God worked through to help you grow in your faith? How has God worked through you to help others in the same way?

BIBLE STORY

God Called Jeremiah
Jeremiah 1

**Yet LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are
our potter; we all are the work
of your hands.**

Isaiah 64:8

BIG TRUTH

*I AM UNIQUELY DESIGNED
BECAUSE...*

God made me on purpose.

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Silly Golf

WHAT YOU NEED: Hula hoops, pool noodles, playground balls, small dry erase boards, dry erase markers, dry erasers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into 3 teams. Have each team line up.
- Give each team 2 hula hoops and instruct leaders to set up one close to their team and one farther away from their team.
- Kids will "golf" using a pool noodle to hit a playground ball. They will be trying to hit the ball into a hula hoop. The closer hula hoop is worth 5 points and the farther one is worth 10 points.
- Once each kid putts, regardless of whether or not the ball made it in a hoop, they will go back to their team's line.
- Assign one leader to keep track of points for their team on a small whiteboard. The other leader will help bring the ball back to the start of the line.
- Play for 3 minutes and see which team has more points!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- I hope you had fun playing "Silly Golf!" It can be harder to play than you would expect. You all did so well cheering for your teammates when it was their turn! When trying something new, it's very encouraging to hear your teammates cheering for you. Let's continue to encourage each other today!

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: God uniquely designed you and built you, piece by piece, on purpose. Nothing about you is an accident! Say, "Nothing!" (Nothing!) Before you were born, God knew everything about you. God made you on purpose!

(Open the Bible.) Our Bible Story today is about a man named Jeremiah. What's his name? (Jeremiah!) Jeremiah was a prophet, a person who shared special messages from God. Some of these messages were written down, and that is how we got the book of Jeremiah. This book is found in the first part of the Bible called the Old Testament. God uniquely designed Jeremiah on purpose for a unique purpose. Let's learn more about that from the Bible!

AFTER THE LESSON: God had a very important purpose for Jeremiah! God created him on purpose and for a purpose. When I say, "On purpose," you say, "For a purpose." "On purpose!" (For a purpose!) God told Jeremiah that even before he was born, God had chosen him for a very special purpose. Jeremiah wasn't an accident, and you aren't either! God knows every little piece that makes you, you! Say, "God made me on purpose!" (God made me on purpose!)

You are uniquely designed by God who loves you and wants to have a relationship with you! Part of having a relationship with God is knowing that He made you on purpose for a purpose. Jeremiah's purpose was to share special messages from God with the world. While your purpose might not look exactly like Jeremiah's, part of your purpose is the same as his. Your purpose is to trust and follow God and then share with others how God loves them and wants a relationship with them.

3. SMALL GROUPS

1. What is something fun or exciting you have done on purpose?
2. When you see a hammer, you know that it was made to tap nails into things. Hammers are made on purpose and for a purpose! In a similar way, God made you on purpose for a purpose. Why do we need to know that we were made with a purpose?
3. The Bible tells us that God uniquely designed each of us! **Let's open our Bibles to Jeremiah 1:5 and verse 8 and read about it together.** Like God designed Jeremiah for a purpose, God uniquely designed you, piece by piece. What are some special things about how God made you?
 - o Allow kids to answer, and share your own. Answers might include "God made me kind and helpful" or "God helps me see friends who are in need."
4. When we trust in Jesus, God makes us new and gives us a special purpose to share about God with others! Think about how special and unique God made you. How might you use some of those unique traits to tell others about Jesus and show them God's love?
 - o Allow kids to answer. Answers might include "I can tell friends that Jesus loves them" or "I can show my friends God's love by helping them."
5. The Bible tells us that God uniquely designed us on purpose. He purposefully made you, piece by piece! What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? If you haven't trusted in Jesus or are unsure if you want to right now, that's OK! I can talk with you about what it means to follow Jesus and listen to any questions you may have about following God.

PRAY TOGETHER: God, thank You for designing us on purpose and for a purpose. Help us use each piece of ourselves to follow You and tell others about You. Every day, help us remember that we are uniquely designed by You. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Potter Pictures

WHAT YOU NEED: Playdough (one for every 2 kids)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids get into pairs. Give every pair one container of play dough.
- Have one kid in each pair come up to you. You will give them a prompt that their partner will build.
- They will go back to their partner and describe what they need to make out of play dough, but they can't say what it is directly.
- For example, if the creation is a house, kids say to their partner, "Shape four walls, a roof, a window, and a door."
- Once kids have built their creation correctly, have them switch roles. The other kid in the pair will come up to you to get another prompt.
- Prompts include:
 - A cat
 - A car
 - A puzzle piece
 - A chicken
 - A shoe
 - Spaghetti
 - Ice cream in a cone

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Your pottery play dough creations looked amazing! It was so cool to see you communicate with your teammates, who then shaped what you knew the creation was supposed to be.
- God shaped and formed all of us, like a potter who shapes clay. He made us unique, on purpose, and for a purpose—to help others know, love, and follow Him. You are original, special, and made on purpose by God!

PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - Exodus 31:1-11

See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.

Exodus 31:2-5

Reflect - How can you use your God-given talents to point others to God?

- A. I can serve in my church.
- B. I can help my neighbors.
- C. I can use my gifts at work.

Pray - Thank You, God, for giving me gifts and talents. Thank You that You can work through me to point others to You. Help me to use my gifts in all the different areas of my life. Amen.

Prepare - What are some gifts and talents God has given you? How do you see God working through those gifts?

BIBLE STORY

God Provided Skilled Workers
Exodus 31:1-11

**Yet LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are
our potter; we all are the work
of your hands.**
Isaiah 64:8

BIG TRUTH

*I AM UNIQUELY DESIGNED
BECAUSE...*
God made me talented.

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Talented Four Corners

WHAT YOU NEED: Talented Four Corners slides

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct kids to stand, and explain that when the slide is displayed, kids will go to whichever corner they feel can do the best.
- Display the slide. Allow kids to move to a corner and display their talents.
- Repeat for five rounds with kids demonstrating their talents each time.
- Unlike traditional four corners, kids will not be eliminated each round.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Great playing! Go ahead and return to your seats. Wow, I feel like I know all of you so much better! Who knew there was so much talent in the room? From wiggling your ears to showing off knowing words in different languages, each of you have such unique abilities! Do you know why?
- Because that is the way God created you! God created every part of you—your talents, your passions, and your dreams. You are uniquely designed by God! Point to your neighbor, and say, "You are uniquely designed!" (You are uniquely designed!) Point to yourself, and say, "I am uniquely designed!" (I am uniquely designed!)

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: God has designed you with amazing interests and passions, and He has a special plan to work through you to point others to Him. Your talents may look or be different than others, and that's OK! God made you unique and one of a kind, just like every pearl is unique and one of a kind. He is doing something rare and special in your life that He is going to show you, piece by piece!

(Open the Bible.) We are going to learn more about this from the Bible. The Bible is God's true message about Himself to us. Today, we are looking at a story from the first part of the Bible, which is called the Old Testament. This is a story from a time when God's people were living in the wilderness. God told the people to build a big, covered tent called a tabernacle, which is where the people could go and worship God.

AFTER THE LESSON: Our world does not always look at and value talents the same. We may celebrate or admire people who are really good at sports, or amazing singers, or who invent cool things. But we may not always notice or celebrate other talents. People are not always good judges of talent, but God is! Every talent that God gives you is good and valuable because God designed it that way. The reason God gave us talents is to accomplish His very important purpose for us—to know God and point others to Him. Say, "God made me talented!" (God made me talented!)

God worked through Bezalel (BEHZ uh lehl) and Oholiab (oh HOH lih ab) for a very specific purpose—to help build the tabernacle. God chose these special, talented workers to help make the place where He would spend time with His people and teach His people about His love for them. God called Bezalel and Oholiab by name and knew every detail about them—their talents, their abilities, and more—because He made them. What God makes is always special and valuable to Him.

3. SMALL GROUPS

1. What are some talents you can name?

- o Share that the world values what people do, but God values us because He made and created us valuable.

2. The Bible tells us God uniquely designed us with gifts and talents. **Let's open our Bibles to Exodus 31:2-3 and read about it together.** Bezalel (BEHZ uh lehl) and Oholiab (oh HOH lih ab) were talented men who made amazing things because God uniquely designed them that way. God gave each of us special talents too! What are some of your talents?

- o Encourage kids who have a hard time thinking of a talent to think outside the box—do they listen especially well, know how to make people laugh, and so forth?

3. Sometimes we admire how talented someone else is and wonder, Am I special like that? We may not have the same talents as others, but we are all talented because God made us talented! How could today's Bible story and what we have learned help you or a friend who is wondering about being talented?

4. The Bible tells us God designed us with unique talents and gifts. He designed you—talents and all—piece by piece! What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about?

PRAY TOGETHER: God, thank You for giving us special gifts and talents. Thank You for taking the time to make us piece by piece. You uniquely designed each of us. Help us use our talents to point others to You. Thank You for loving us so much! Amen.

ACTIVITY

God Made Me Talented

WHAT YOU NEED: cardstock paper, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Instruct them to write their name, letter by letter, down the left side of the page.
- Tell them that they will write or draw something that they are talented at or something they enjoy doing by each letter that starts with that letter.
- Once they are done, they will write "God made me talented!" on their paper.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Your acrostics look great! It's true, you all are so talented! It may have been hard figuring out what to draw, but I hope you see that God has given you so many talents.
- God uniquely designed you with specific gifts for His specific purpose. Every time you look at your acrostic, remember how God made you talented. Say, "God made me talented!"

PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - Luke 15:1-7

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15:4-7

Reflect - What can bring you encouragement as you remember that God values you?

- A. God values me so much that He sought me when I was lost.
- B. God values me so much that He rejoices over my relationship with Him.
- C. God values me so much that He invites me to rejoice with Him over what He is doing in the lives of others.

Pray - God, thank You for Your incredible love. Thank You for rescuing me and rejoicing over me. Help me to remember how much You value me, and help me to rejoice and value others as I participate in Your mission.

Prepare - How can knowing that God values you help you have compassion and care for others?

BIBLE STORY

The Parable of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

**Yet LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are
our potter; we all are the work
of your hands.**
Isaiah 64:8

BIG TRUTH

*I AM UNIQUELY DESIGNED
BECAUSE...*
God made me valuable.

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION Line Up!

WHAT YOU NEED: None

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into groups by gender and grade.
- Tell kids that you will give them a prompt from stage and they will line up in the order that you say.
- Whichever team lines up the quickest wins that round.
- Prompts:
 - Shoe size, smallest to largest
 - Height, shortest to tallest
 - Oldest to youngest
 - Alphabetically by last name
 - Hair length, shortest to longest
 - Shirt color, lightest to darkest
 - Total number of siblings, least to greatest
 - Birthday, beginning of the year to the end of the year

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Great job lining up! I hope this game helped you learn some things about your teammates. Maybe you found out someone was born in the same month as you! Or maybe you found someone with the same number of siblings! It is nice to know your teammates know a little more about you. Let's keep learning more about each other today!

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: Do you have any special items or things that mean a lot to you? Maybe when you were younger you had a special stuffed animal or blanket. Those special items might not be worth a lot of money, but they are valuable to you because YOU value them. In the same way, we are valuable to God because God values us! (Open the Bible.) Today we are going to learn a story from the Bible that Jesus told. This Bible story is found in a book called Luke. Which book? (Luke!) Luke is in the New Testament, which is the second part of the Bible. It was a story about how one sheep was so important to its shepherd!

AFTER THE LESSON: Close your eyes for a minute, and imagine you are the lost sheep from the Bible story. (Allow kids to close their eyes.) Where are you? What are you feeling? Are you scared, lonely, or frustrated? Now, open your eyes, and show me the face you would make or the cheer you would give when you saw your shepherd coming to save you! (Allow kids to make happy faces, cheer, and so forth.)

Some people might ask why the shepherd would leave 99 of his sheep alone to go looking for just one of them. They might say, "Don't worry about one tiny sheep—don't leave your other sheep just because one got lost! One sheep is not that valuable!" But Jesus told this story to show that the shepherd loved and valued each and every one of his sheep. Jesus told this story to teach that God loves and values each of us too.

PRESENT THE GOSPEL:

- **Circle two-** Sometimes, we can feel like we are not valuable. We may think we have to prove ourselves or show that we are valuable—that we matter. This is because of sin. Sin is when we choose to follow what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. Sin breaks our relationship with God and breaks the way we see and think about ourselves. We worry that we are not valuable. We might even try and be "good" enough to prove ourselves and show that we are valuable. Our brokenness causes us to be lost or separated from our Shepherd—God, kind of like the lost sheep in our Bible story was separated from the shepherd. We need Someone to rescue us.
- **Circle three-** God loves us so much; He sent Jesus to rescue us and make a way for us to have a relationship with God. Jesus died and took the punishment for our sin. Then Jesus came back to life to conquer sin and death! Our sin makes us like a sheep that has run away from the shepherd, but God values and loves us so much; He came to find us and save us.
- **Circle one-** When we respond to this good news by trusting Jesus and asking Him to forgive our sins, He does! When we trust in Jesus, we can have a restored relationship with God. This is the relationship God designed for us when He created the world. Sin may have broken our relationship with God, but God sent Jesus to make us new and bring us back into His family. When we have a restored relationship with God, we can know and understand how valuable we are to Him!

If you want to know more about how to respond and have a relationship with God or how to ask Jesus for forgiveness, talk to me or your Leader. We can talk with you about how valuable you are to God and how you can have a relationship with Him! God values you because He made you, piece by piece! Repeat after me, "God made me valuable!" (God made me valuable!)

3. SMALL GROUPS

1. What is your most valuable possession? Why is it so valuable?
2. When we have a favorite item, we value it because we love it so much. What are some things God loves about you?
 - o Consider answers such as my kindness, the way I help others, my friendliness, and so forth.
3. The Bible tells us God made you valuable because you are uniquely designed by Him. **Let's open our Bibles to Luke 15:4-7 and read about it together.** The shepherd went after the lost sheep because the sheep was valuable. Why did he go after the sheep? (It was valuable!) If you were the sheep, how would you have felt to see your shepherd coming to save you?
4. The shepherd left all his other sheep to go find the one who had wandered away. We do not know how far the shepherd had to walk to rescue his sheep or how long it took to find his sheep. But the shepherd did not give up until he found his lost sheep. What does this story tell us about how God feels about us?
 - o God values us so much; He sent Jesus all the way to the cross to rescue us from sin so we can have a relationship with Him when we trust and follow Him. If you have questions about having a relationship with God, talk with me.
5. The Bible tells us God uniquely designed us to be valuable. Our value comes from being created, piece by piece, by God Himself! What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about?

PRAY TOGETHER: God, thank You for this Bible story about the lost sheep. We know that we wander away from You when we sin and disobey. Please forgive us. Thank You that when we ask for forgiveness, You are faithful to forgive! Thank You that we are valuable to You—not because of what we do but because You made us and love us. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Work of His Hands

WHAT YOU NEED: construction paper, printer paper squares, markers, scissors, glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a sheet of construction paper. Instruct them to fold it in half, long ways (hot dog style).
- Tell them to put their non-dominant hand on the folded paper, with their pinky finger and side of their hand touching the folded edge.
- Tell them to trace their hand. They can also partner up with a friend to trace each other's hands if that is easier.
- Once their hand is traced, have them cut out the outline, NOT cutting out the part on the folded edge.
- They will then cut a strip of paper from their leftover construction paper. They will fold it back and forth, accordion style, to make a pop out.
- They will glue one end of that strip on the inside of the one of the hands.
- Then they will write "God Made Me Valuable" on the paper square and glue that to the other end of the pop out strip. When they open their praying hands, the paper will pop out.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- What awesome praying hands! When you close your praying hands, remember how you are the work of God's hands. When you open them up, remember that God made you valuable! You are uniquely designed by God. Like a potter creates a masterpiece, God created you on purpose and says you are valuable.

PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - Psalm 139

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

Psalm 139:14

Reflect - What helps you remember that you matter to God?

- A. God remarkably and wondrously made me. (Psalm 139:14)
- B. God is with me always and everywhere. (Psalm 139:7-12)
- C. God has written and planned my days. (Psalm 139:16)

Pray - God, You made me, and You know me. Thank You that I matter to You. Help me to be encouraged by the truth that You are always with me and have great plans for me. Amen.

Prepare - Have you ever wanted to hide from God? How can the love and presence of God help when we feel like running and hiding from Him?



ELEMENTARY

June 28 & 29

GAMECHANGER WEEKEND

God Says You Matter

BIBLE STORY

God Made You Special
Genesis 1–2; Psalm 139

This is Gamechanger weekend! That means that we will be in Large Group time for the entire service. Split kids into 4 teams- red, blue, yellow, and green.

INTRO

WHAT YOU SAY: Today, we are learning that God says you matter. God designed each of you uniquely before you were even born! When you are born, you are given a birth certificate. This piece of paper says who you are, and when and where you were born! It shows that there is only one you! God made each and every one of you special and unique because He loves you. He has loved you and planned for you since before you were even born! God says you matter—you matter to Him, and you matter to us! We are so glad you are here today. You were designed by the Creator to be exactly who you are, and He loves you more than you could even imagine! He loved you so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, so you can have a relationship with Him and be a part of His family. Jesus changes the game! Say, “God says you matter!” (God says you matter!)

GAME 1- Heads or Tails

WHAT YOU NEED: Coin

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids group up with their team. Tell them that you will be flipping a coin from stage.
- Each round, they will decide before the coin is flipped if they think that it will be heads or tails. If they think it is heads, they will stay standing. If they think it is tails, they will sit down.
- Have leaders keep track for their team how many kids guess correctly each round.
- At the end of the game, the points earned for each team is total number of correct guesses times 10. (ie: red team guessed correctly 28 times over the rounds, they earn 280 points).

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Have you ever taken the time to look at the design of quarters or other coins like them? With some coins, the heads side is always the same, but the tails design changes. Some designs represent a certain state and show something special about that state. It is cool how each quarter always has a heads and a tails side, but they are not all exactly the same. They are uniquely designed, and today, we are learning that we are uniquely designed too! We are uniquely designed by God, the Creator of the whole world! If you think that’s cool, say, “Woooooooow!” (Woooooooow!) It’s super cool, and I can’t wait to learn more about it with you today!

WORSHIP AND LESSON

BEFORE THE LESSON: Our Bible Story today comes from the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and another book the Bible called Psalms. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. This Bible story will help us learn that we are uniquely designed by God and that God says you matter! When we think about our big world and all the people in it, it can be hard to understand that God knows us and cares about us individually. But he does! Our Bible story today will remind us of that truth!

AFTER THE LESSON: (Open the Bible.) In our Bible Story, we heard that we are special and unique because God created us. Why are we special and unique? (Because God created us!) God created us in His image—and that is something that is only true of people, not anything else God made! To be made in God's image means that God made us to be like a mirror to the world. When others look at us, they can see what God is like. In Psalm 139, David knew that God made him special. David praised God because he knew God made him, and the rest of us, in a remarkable and wondrous way! And because God made us special, we can remember we that we matter to God. Look to a neighbor, and say, "God says you matter!" (God says you matter!) Point to yourself, and say, "God says I matter!" (God says I matter!)

God uniquely designed all people in His image. He created us to know, love, and follow Him, and He wants us to have a relationship with Him because He cares for and loves us. Sin broke that relationship though. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. Because of sin, our relationship with God is broken. We cannot reflect Him in the way He made us to on our own. But God, because of how much He loves us, sent Jesus to rescue us and make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. God loves us, and He says that we matter to Him.

Let me hear you say, "God says you matter!" (God says you matter!) Jesus totally changed the game because He made the way for us to have a relationship with God! When we respond to this good news by believing and trusting in Jesus, that changes everything! Say, "Jesus changes the game!" (Jesus changes the game!) To be known and loved by a great big God changes everything for us! Let's watch a video to see more about how God loves you and wants to rescue you.

PRESENT THE GOSPEL:

You may be wondering what it means to have a relationship with God. Or you may feel you are not "good enough" to matter to God. Well, guess what? You do! You matter to the God who created the world, and He loves you! If you want to know more about how you are uniquely designed, come ask me or another leader. We would love to help you! Responding to God by trusting in Jesus changes the game!

GAME 2- Game Changer Relay

WHAT YOU NEED: Gamechanger relay cards, bucket

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each team a bucket and Game Changer cards in their team colors.
- Have one leader from each team stand on one end of the Large Group area with the empty bucket.
- Another leader from each team should stand with the laminated stack of cards for their team and the kids lined up behind them.
- Explain what the symbols and numbers on each card mean.
- On your signal, the first kid in line will pull a card and complete that action.
- Point out to kids that most of the cards have them doing a challenge with a friend or multiple friends. They will go back to their team to complete those challenges! Once they are done, they will drop the card into the bucket and go to the back of their team's line.
- Start the game. At the end of 5 minutes, the team who has turned in the most cards to their bucket wins that game.
 - o Award 100 points per cards in that team's bucket.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Great job, everyone! Go ahead and take a seat! If you have any cards left, give them to your leader to count. Leaders, let me know how many your team got!

ACTIVITY Paper Chains

WHAT YOU NEED: prepared sheets of paper, markers, staplers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a sheet of paper. They will write out Psalm 139: 13-14 on the strips, like on the example page.
- Once they have written out the verse, they will cut their paper into strips. Encourage them to keep the strips in order.
- They will then take the first line of the verse and loop it into a circle. They will secure it with a stapler. Then they will loop the next strip through that circle and make it into its own circle, securing it with a stapler.
- They will continue until they have used all the strips and completed their paper chain.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Your paper chains look great! Hang this somewhere you can see it to remind you that you are valuable to God.
- Take off one strip each day for the next week. Start with the start of the verse and challenge yourself to memorize that strip. Each day, you will have a little more of the verse memorized and in a week you will know both verses!